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THE SHAY—LE

BY

FRANK HARRISON

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THE SHAY-LE

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ACT I.

SCENE I:

A CHINESE PRISON CELL OCCUPYING 1-3 STAGE AT R. PRISON SUPPOSED TO BE OFF R. WHILE AT BACK A PERSPECTIVE DROP - A BEAUTIFUL CHINESE VIEW, SHOWING TEA-FIELDS, PAGODAS, ETC. AT RISE OF CURTAIN RALPH PENWICK IS DISCOVERED HALF RECLINING ON COUCH WITH CHAIN ROUND ANKLE FASTENED TO WALL CHAIN ABOUT SIX FEET LONG. SEVERAL CHINAMEN ARE AROUND HIM JABBERING, AND SEEMINGLY MUCH EXCITED. FU CHOW, SEEMS TO BE MORE EXCITED THAN THE OTHERS.

CHINAMEN.

LING CHIH! LING CHIH!

PENWICK.

[RAISING A LITTLE] WHAT ARE THE DEVILS SAYING? I WISH REYNOLDS WAS HERE. HE UNDERSTANDS THE HEATHENS' JABBERINGS, AND COULD INFORM ME HOW LONG I AM DOOMED TO REMAIN IN THIS CURSED HOLE.

[REYNOLDS ENTERS L. U. E. ATTENDED BY SEVERAL CHINAMEN - KEEPERS - THEY APPRAOCH OUTSIDE DOOR OF PRISON AND COMMENCE TO UNLOCK IT. PENWICK HEARS THEM]

HERE COMES A FRESH LOT OF THE FIENDS TO INFLICT SOME NEW PUNISHMENT, DAMN THEM!

[DOOR OPENS AND REYNOLDS ENTERS- PENWICK SEES HIM AND EXPRESSES GREAT JOY]

OH, MY DEAR CHARLIE!

REYNOLDS.

[GOING TO HIM] WHY PENWICK I DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND YOU IN SUCH A

PLACE ON MY RETURN, IF I HAD I WOULD HAVE FORGONE THE SKETCHING EXPEDITION. BUT TELL ME, WHAT'S UP? THE WHOLE POPULACE SEEMS TO BE IN GREAT EXCITEMENT.

RENWICK.

WHAT'S UP? WHY THE DEUCE IS TO PAY! THE NEXT MORNING AFTER YOU LEFT I WAS ARRESTED, TAKEN BEFORE THE MANDARIN, AND FOR TWO DAYS HAVE LAIN IN THIS PRISON INFLICTED WITH TORTURES, AND HALF STARVED,-- CURSE THEM! WHEN I GET OUT, I'LL MAKE EVERY MOTHER'S SON OF THEM PAY FOR IT.

REYNOLDS.

BUT TELL ME,-- THE CAUSE OF YOUR ARREST?

RENWICK.

HANG ME, IF I CAN FULLY UNDERSTAND IT MYSELF. YOU REMEMBER THE LAST FEAST DAY, WHEN WE PAID A VISIT TO THE TEMPLE, AND SAW THOUSANDS OF THE COPPER SKINNED WRETCHES BURNING JOSS STICKS, AND I THOUGHT THE DRUM OF MY EAR WOULD GIVE WAY FROM THE INFERNAL NOISES MADE BY THEIR DRUMS AND BELLS. YOU REMEMBER I CONFESSED TO BE CONVERTED TO THEIR RELIGION AND A DEVOTEE OF THEIR GOD ''AY-TUM-FOO'' OR TOM FOOL, OR SOME SUCH NAME, WELL IT WAS THAT VISIT THAT PUT ME IN THIS CELL.

REYNOLDS.

HOW SO?

RENWICK.

AFTER I EXPENDED A FEW POUNDS IN JOSS-STICKS AND OTHER JIM-CRACKS WE CAME TO THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM IN WHICH THE PIPPIN-FACED SCOUNDRELS KEEP THE SACRED ''SHAY-LE, OR BLESSED RELIC OF BUDDHA,'' AND IF YOU REMEMBER, I BRIBED THE OLD SHRIVELED UP PRIEST IN CHARGE, WITH FIVE POUNDS FOR A SIGHT OF THIS WONDERFUL SHAY-LE, AND WHEN I SAW IT WAS NO MORE THAN A ROUND CRYSTAL OF GLASS, I FELT I WAS SWINDLED, AND TO GET EVEN WITH THE OLD HYPOCRITE I POCKETED THE INFERNAL THING WHILE HE WAS KNEELING BEFORE A PUTTY FACED GOD.

REYNOLDS.

:SHOWING MUCH ALARM: MY GOD! MAN, DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE DONE?

RENWICK.

I KNOW I'VE GOT INTO THIS DIRTY PRISON BY IT, AND SUPPOSE I AM DOOMED TO STAY HERE A CERTAIN NUMBER OF DAYS UNTIL :IN JOKING MANNER: THE

GREAT SIN I HAVE COMMITTED IS ATONED FOR. LET ME GET OUT ONCE AND I'LL MAKE THAT GRINNING FU CHOW YOUNDER PAY FOR IT. THE MONKEY FACED SCOUNDREL INFORMED ON ME.

[ALL DURING SCENE FU CHOW HAS BEEN EYEING HIM WITH FIERCE LOOK-- LOOK OF SATISFACTION

REYNOLDS.

THE ERROR YOU HAVE COMMITTED, MY POOR MAN, IS NOT PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT, BUT BY DEATH.

RENWICK.

NONSENSE! MAN, THE SCOUNDRELS KNOW BETTER THAN TO CONDEMN A BRITISH SUBJECT TO DEATH FOR A MERE OFFENCE.

REYNOLDS.

IT'S NOT AN OFFENCE, BUT A CRIME PUNISHABLE BY THE MOST HORRIBLE DEATH, WHICH MAY BE BUT A FEW HOURS HENCE. OH, WHY DID YOU TAKE THE SHAY-LE! [SHOWING ALARM.]

RENWICK.

[SHOWING ANGER AND IMPATIENCE.] YOU JEST WITH ME.

REYNOLDS.

GOD FORBID THAT I SHOULD JEST WITH A CONDEMNED MAN. BUT THERE'S NO TIME FOR ARGUMENT. I MUST SAVE YOU IF IT'S POSSIBLE. HERE FU CHOW!

[FU CHOW GOES CLOSER--THEY TALK IN WHISPERS. SPEECH FOR RENWICK.]

REYNOLDS.

[STAGGERS.] GOOD HEAVENS!

RENWICK.

[BECOMING ALARMED.] WHAT'S THE MATTER, REYNOLDS? TELL ME FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE!

REYNOLDS.

CAN YOU BEAR TO HEAR THE TRUTH? HAVE I THE STRENGTH TO TELL IT?

RENWICK.

[FRIGHTENED AND IMPATIENT.] TELL IT-- SPEAK, MAN, SPEAK!

REYNOLDS.

[FALTERING] WELL THEN--- FU CHOW TELLS ME-----

RENWICK.

:IMPATIENTLY: WELL, GO ON.

REYNOLDS.

THAT YOU ARE CONDEMNED TO BE PUNISHED BY THE LING CHIH.

RENWICK

:QUICKLY: WHAT'S THAT?

REYNOLDS.

: TURNING AWAY AS IF TO GATHER STRENGTH : TO BE LITERALLY CUT INTO TEN THOUSAND PIECES.

RENWICK.

OH HEAVENS! : STAGGERS AND FALLS BACK :.

REYNOLDS.

: GOING TO HIM : UNFORTUNATE MAN, WHY DID YOU DO THIS? : ASIDE : AND IN THREE HOURS HE WILL BE LED TO HIS FATE. OH GOD HELP ME! I MUST SAVE HIM.

RENWICK.

: RECOVERED SOMEWHAT : I SEE IT IS TOO TRUE; BUT HOW SOON? HOW SOON?

REYNOLDS.

: NOISES HEARD WITHOUT : IN THREE HOURS. DO YOU HEAR THOSE SOUNDS? IT IS THE POST TO WHICH YOU WILL BE TIED, AND THEN---- I CAN'T TELL YOU.

RENWICK.

: SUDDENLY BRIGHTENING AS IF A NEW HOPE STRUCK HIM-- QUICKLY:

BUT I HAVE MONEY--- CAN'T WE BRIBE THE HEATHENS--- I'LL GIVE TWENTY THOUSAND POUNDS FOR MY RELEASE : SEMI FRANTIC : FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE HELP ME REYNOLDS--- HELP ME, YOUR UNFORTUNATE FRIEND.

REYNOLDS.

I SEE NO OTHER CHANCE--- I HAVE AN IDEA--- A SUBSTITUTE. THERE ARE MANY OF THE IGNORANT WRETCHES THAT WOULD SELL THEIR LIVES FOR FIFTY POUNDS AND BE PROUD OF THE BARGAIN, AND WE CAN BRIBE THE JAILERS WITH

ANOTHER FIFTY TO SHUT THEIR EYES TO THE DECEPTION.

RENWICK.

BUT WHY NOT BRIBE THE JAILERS FOR MY ESCAPE WITHOUT A SUBSTITUTE?

REYNOLDS.

MY POOR FRIEND, YOU DON'T KNOW THE ENORMITY OF YOUR CRIME. FU CHOW TELLS ME THE POPULACE FOR MILES ROUND ARE IN SUCH AN EXCITED STATE THAT IF HUMAN BLOOD WAS NOT SHED, THEY WOULD MOB THE JAILERS, AND EVEN THE MANDARIN WHO CONVICTED YOU.

RENWICK.

THEN GO FOR A SUBSTITUTE--- OH MISERABLE MAN THAT I AM.

REYNOLDS.

BEAR UP MY FRIEND, WE MUST KEEP COOL AND CLEAR HEADS. THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO SPARE. COME, FU CHOW, WE MUST SAVE HIM. : STARTS TO GO D.L. :

RENWICK.

YES: SAVE ME! OFFER TWENTY THOUSAND POUNDS. IF THAT WON'T DO, DOUBLE IT. I AM RICH, AND WILL GIVE ALL I AM WORTH RATHER THAN MEET SUCH A FATE.

REYNOLDS.

: ASSURING TONE : CHEER UP, WE'LL SAVE YOU YET. : EXEUNT D. L. :

RENWICK.

: SOLUS. : YES, I MUST BE SAVED. : SLOWLY : CUT TO PIECES BY THE BARBARIANS-- UGH! : SHUDDERS : NO! I WILL KILL MYSELF FIRST. IF I CAN'T CHEAT THE WRETCHES ONE WAY, I WILL ANOTHER. : ASSURING HIMSELF : PSHAW! WHAT'S THE NEED OF BEING ALARMED. WHY TWENTY THOUSAND POUNDS WILL BUY THE WHOLE NATION. WHAT A FOOL I WAS ANYWAY TO TRAVEL SO FAR NORTH IN THIS CURSED EMPIRE, THEN A GREATER FOOL STILL, TO KEEP THAT FU CHOW IN MY EMPLOY AFTER I INSULTED HIS DAUGHTER---- HANG IT, HOW DID I KNOW SHE WAS HIS DAUGHTER--- REYNOLDS DEFENDED HER TOO. HE IS ALWAYS TAKING THE HEATHENS' PART. HE'S A SOFT HEARTED FELLOW. AT ANY RATE FU CHOW WORSHIPS HIM JUST AS MUCH AS HE HATES ME, AND REYNOLDS MAY PERSUADE HIM TO HELP ME OUT OF THIS SCRAPE. CHEER UP RENWICK, YOU ARE SAFE! YOU WILL YET BREATHE THE ENGLISH AIR---- BUT DAMN IT, ONLY THREE HOURS : SHUDDERS AGAIN : OH, REYNOLDS, SAVE ME. YOU ARE MY ONLY HOPE, AND HEAVEN KNOWS, MY BEST FRIEND. WHAT WOULD

I GIVE TO BE FREE'D, THIS CHAIN LOOSE, AND MY REVOLVERS, I'D MAKE THE HEATHENS HOWL, OH WHY DID I TAKE THE SHAY-LE-- WHY DID I, WHY DID I.

: LAYS OVER AND MOANS IN PAIN AND ANGUISH REYNOLDS ENTERS L. WITH FU CHOW TALKING TOGETHER IN LOW TONES. :

REYNOLDS.

: SOLUS-- WITHOUT CELL : ALAS, POOR RENWICK NOTHING CAN BE DONE---- IN LESS THAN THREE HOURS YOU WILL PAY THE PENALTY OF YOUR FOOLISHNESS. HOW CAN I TELL HIM THE WORST; BUT BETTER THAN GIVE HIM FALSE HOPE--- SO HEAVEN HELP ME.

: JAILER OPENS D. L. REYNOLDS FEES HIM-- AND ENTERS. :

RENWICK.

: RISING AS D. OPENS -- QUICKLY: WHAT IS IT REYNOLDS! SPEAK! TELL ME! MY GOD, DON'T STAND THERE TREMBLING. OUT WITH IT, I AM A MAN, SPEAK! SPEAK!

REYNOLDS.

ALAS, MY POOR FRIEND, NOTHING CAN BE DONE.

RENWICK.

MY GOD!

: STAGGERS AND SHOWS WORST OF MENTAL AGONY:

REYNOLDS.

I SAW THE MANDARIN WHO WOULDN'T LISTEN TO MY PLEADINGS OR OFFERINGS OF MONEY. THEN I PROPOSED A SUBSTITUTE TO WHICH HE WAS MORE FAVORABLY INCLINED, BUT ALAS, WHERE TO PROCURE A SUBSTITUTE; FOR HE INFORMED ME IN THE MOST EMPHATIC LANGUAGE THAT HE HAD TO BE AN ENGLISHMAN; THAT THE WHOLE PROVINCE IS IN SUCH A STATE THEY WOULD NOT STAND THE DECEPTION OF A CHINAMAN; BUT WHERE TO GET AN ENGLISHMAN, THERE'S NOT ONE BESIDES OURSELVES WITHIN FIVE HUNDRED MILES.

RENWICK.

: IN DESPAIR : OH HEAVEN HAVE MERCY, WHAT WILL I DO? IS THERE NO HOPE?

REYNOLDS.

ALAS, NOT THE LEAST. THEY WILL NOT EVEN LENGTHEN THE TIME TO THE

EXECUTION. THE PRISON WALLS WOULD BE IN DANGER IF IT WAS DELAYED A MOMENT.

RENWICK.

: DETERMINED TONE : THEN I SWEAR BEFORE GOD THE WRETCHES SHALL BE DISAPPOINTED.

REYNOLDS.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

RENWICK.

THAT THEY TAKE ME FROM THIS CELL A DEAD MAN.

REYNOLDS.

OH, HORRORS!

RENWICK.

YES, RATHER THAN SUFFER THE TORTURES OF THE LING CHIH AND GRATIFY THE FIENDS, I WILL POISON MYSELF, SO QUICK. RUN TO THE BOAT, IN MY DESK YOU WILL FIND A BOTTLE OF LAUDANUM, BRING IT, AND YOU WILL DO RALPH RENWICK THE GREATEST SERVICE YOU CAN BEFORE HIS DEATH. GO! GO! OR I WILL GO MAD.

REYNOLDS.

BUT MY POOR FRIEND-------

RENWICK.

GO! I TELL YOU, GO! IF YOU WOULD DO THE DYING A FAVOR.

REYNOLDS.

I WILL.

: STARTS TO GO, GETS TO D. L. TURNS, SEES THE TREMBLING RENWICK-- STAGGERS, PUTS HIS HAND TO HEAD. :

AM I GOING MAD!

STAGGERS OUT OF D. L. FU CHOW FOLLOWS HIM FUCHOW GOES UP STAGE AND JOINS CHINAMEN WHO ARE PUTTING POST IN GROUND--- REYNOLDS DOWN PRETTY WELL-- PUTS HAND TO FOREHEAD AS IF TO COLLECT THOUGHTS-- RENWICK HEARD MOANING. :

REYNOLDS.

EVERY MOAN IS LIKE A THRUST WITH A DAGGER---- AND IN THREE HOURS----
: SHUDDERS AND LOOKS IN ABSTRACTED MANNER : WHAT IS IT THAT FLASHES THROUGH MY MIND---- WHY SHOULD HE DIE; HE SO RICH, POWERFUL AND SUCCESSFUL CUT OFF IN THE PRIME OF LIFE. IT'S TERRIBLE! WHY WASN'T IT I THAT COMMITTED THE ACT. I WHO HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ACCOUNTED A WORTHLESS DOG; A LAZY ARTIST, WHO FOR FORTY YEARS HAVE LIVED ON VISIONS; AND FOR THE PAST EIGHTEEN YEARS SCARCELY ABLE TO SUPPORT A WIFE AND CHILD. EVEN THEY WOULD NOT MISS ME; FOR WHAT HAVE I DONE TOWARDS THEIR SUPPORT, NOTHING AS COMPARED TO WHAT OTHERS HAVE DONE; YET GOD KNOWS I LOVE THEM, AND HAVE DONE MY BEST. EVERY HOPE AND BRIGHT VISION OF MY LIFE HAS FAILED. EVEN NOW THE LITTLE MONEY I MANAGED TO SEND HOME DERIVED FROM A SMALL SALARY AS TRAVELING COMPANION WILL BE CUT OFF, FOR HE WILL NO LONGER NEED ME.

: TAKES PICTURES FROM POCKET LOOKS AT THEM IN SAD TONE :

MY DEAR, DEAR NELLIE, SHE WHO I HAVE NOT SEEN FOR YEARS, AND HERE MY POOR WIFE. : REFERRING TO ANOTHER : OH WOULD THAT I WERE RICH THAT I COULD MAKE YOU A LADY : REFERRING TO FIRST PICTURE : WHY --- TWENTY THOUSAND POUNDS IS RICH, AND--- AND ---- AND TWENTY THOUSAND POUNDS IS WITHIN MY REACH. RALPH RENWICK IS CONDEMNED TO DIE AND WOULD GIVE THAT SUM FOR A SUBSTITUTE. WHY SHOULD I NOT DIE FOR HIM AND MY NELLIE AND POOR WIFE? WHY SHOULD I LIVE AND KEEP THEM MISERABLE, WHEN I CAN DIE AND MAKE THEM COMFORTABLE. TO LIVE IS PAIN TO ME. HOW WEARY IS THIS WORLD TO THE UNFORTUNATE --- WHAT HAPPINESS IN THE NEXT WORLD. I AM RESOLVED RALPH RENWICK SHALL NOT DIE.

: HE TURNS AND SEES CHINAMEN UP STAGE L. FIXING A POST ABOUT EIGHT FEET LONG IN THE GROUND DRIVING IT IN WITH MALLETS. HE WALKS TO THEM. :

I SUPPOSE THIS IS THE PLACE FOR THE EXECUTION, I WILL ASCERTAIN.

: TALKS WITH ONE OF THEM, THEN COMES DOWN SORROWFULLY. :

AH, THE POOR IGNORANT WRETCHES ARE HAPPY AND REJOICE IN THE COMING EVENT. HE SAID, "YES, AND THIS IS THE POST FOR THE LING CHIH. THERE " WILL BE HALF THE PROVINCE COME TO SEE IT, BUT THERE WILL BE EVER " SO GOOD A VIEW FOR YOUR HONORABLE WORSHIP FROM THE ROOF OF THE " JAIL YONDER." LITTLE DID HE THINK THAT I WILL BE CUT TO PIECES AT THAT POST; BUT COME, COURAGE! COURAGE!----- FU CHOW!

: FU CHOW COMES DOWN--- THEY TALK--- ENTER CELL TOGETHER. FU CHOW EXITS D. R. :

RENWICK.

YOU! YOU! REYNOLDS? ARE YOU MAD?

REYNOLDS.

NO, ALTHOUGH THINGS HAVE GONE WITH ME ALMOST ILL ENOUGH TO DRIVE ME MAD. TO ME, LIFE HAS LONG BEEN VALUELESS, EXCEPT FOR A HOPE THAT DRAWS NO NEARER TO ITS FULFILLMENT. I HAD WISHED TO SEE MY DEAR DAUGHTER BEFORE YOUTH AND BEAUTY HAD PASSED AWAY; BUT IF I DIE FOR YOU, I MUST BE CONTENT TO FEEL THAT IN SO DOING I PURCHASE FOR HER EASE AND COMFORT. I OWE HER MOTHER ALSO REPARATION. THE TWENTY THOUSAND POUNDS--- YOU SPOKE JUST NOW OF FORTY THOUSAND--- BUT THE FIRST SUM WILL SUFFICE, WILL BE GIVEN YOUR FRIEND, A CHANGE WITH WHICH YOU WILL NOT BE INCLINED TO QUARREL. SOME MORE MONEY WILL BE NECESSARY TO INDUCE THE AUTHORITIES TO CONSENT TO THE SUBSTITUTION. WE ARE LIKE ENOUGH--- BOTH BEING ENGLISHMEN TO PASS FOR ONE ANOTHER ON THE SCAFFOLD, FOR IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR ME TO GO THITHER AND BE MADE A SHOW OF. I HAVE SENT FU CHOW TO DEAL WITH THE JAILERS. THEY WILL BE HERE IN A MOMENT. LISTEN! THEY ARE PUTTING THE POST IN THE GROUND TO WHICH I SHALL BE TIED BEFORE THE TORMENT.

RENWICK.

I CAN'T PERMIT IT. WHAT WILL THEY SAY AT HOME WHEN THEY COME TO HEAR THAT I LET YOU DIE FOR ME.

REYNOLDS.

THEY MUST NEVER KNOW IT, FOR I MUST FORFEIT THE LAST POOR PRIVILEGE OF WRITING ONE LINE OF FAREWELL--- FOR A LIE I CANNOT WRITE. YOU MUST EXPLAIN IT ALL-- WHAT WAY YOU PLEASE.

RENWICK.

SOMEHOW THIS SEEMS LIKE A BASE ACT.

REYNOLDS.

IT IS NOT A BASE ACT, IF I WISH IT. IF I HAD RATHER DIE AND MAKE MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER HAPPY THAN LIVE AND KNOW THEM TO BE POOR AND IN WANT, IT IS A VOLUNTARY ACT ON MY PART. IT IS NOT AS IF YOU ASKED ME TO MAKE THE BARGAIN.

RENWICK.

THAT'S TRUE.

REYNOLDS.

OF COURSE THAT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE, I HAVE LOOKED AT THE MATTER

RENWICK.

THE BOTTLE! GIVE IT ME QUICK!

REYNOLDS.

NOT YET, RENWICK, THERE'S TIME ENOUGH.

RENWICK.

LET ME HAVE IT. EVEN THEN IT WILL BE HARD TO DIE LIKE A DOG AND TWENTY TIMES WORSE THAN A DOG AT THE HANDS OF THESE IDIOTS. IT'S STRANGE THAT THE SCOUNDRELS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BOUGHT WITH TWENTY THOUSAND POUNDS. I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT SUCH A SUM WOULD HAVE INDUCED TWANGHI HIMSELF TO TAKE MY PLACE.

REYNOLDS.

IT WOULD BE EASY ENOUGH TO BRIBE THESE MEN ALL ROUND AND OF COURSE TO FIND A SUBSTITUTE; BUT AS I GAVE YOU TO UNDERSTAND, NO CHINAMAN COULD CARRY OUT THE DECEPTION. THE TRICK WOULD BE DISCOVERED AT ONCE, AND ALL WHO CONNIVED AT IT PUNISHED.

RENWICK.

SOONER THAN LOSE MY LIFE I WOULD PAY FORTY THOUSAND POUNDS. THINK OF WHAT SUCH A FORTUNE WOULD BE IN ENGLAND--- HOW MUCH MORE THEN IN CHINA.

REYNOLDS.

NO MONEY WOULD DO IT, UNLESS SOME EUROPEAN COULD BE INDUCED TO DIE FOR YOU.

RENWICK.

: STOLIDLY : THAT IS AS MUCH AS TO SAY, "YOU ARE A DEAD MAN."

REYNOLDS.

NOT QUITE, I KNOW ONE ENGLISHMAN WHO WOULD NOT SHRINK -- AT LEAST I THINK SO-- FROM SUCH A SACRIFICE WITH SUCH A PRIZE IN VIEW.

RENWICK.

WHAT MATTERS IT, SINCE HE IS NOT HERE.

REYNOLDS.

HE IS HERE RENWICK, HE STANDS BEFORE YOU.

ALL ROUND AND AM NOT ACTING ON THE IMPULSE. TELL THEM THAT THEY THREW ME IN PRISON AND CUT OFF ALL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN US; THAT I WAS ALLOWED NO WRITING MATERIALS AND COULD NEITHER COMMUNICATE NOR MAKE A WILL; BUT THAT I LEFT TWENTY THOUSAND POUNDS, : HIS VOICE BREAKS DOWN FOR THE FIRST TIME.:

RENWICK.

BUT MY DEAR CHARLIE HOW IS YOUR POSSESSION OF SO MUCH MONEY TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR?

REYNOLDS.

I HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT ; BUT YOU HAVE A BETTER HEAD THAN MINE FOR INVENTION. SAY I MADE SOME FORTUNATE INVESTMENT IN OPIUM, DON'T SAY I WON IT ON THE TURF IF YOU CAN HELP IT; IT WILL HAVE BEEN GAINED HONESTLY ENOUGH, HEAVEN KNOWS. THERE IS SOMETHING IN THE BIBLE ABOUT DYING FOR ONES FRIEND ''YET FOR A GOOD MAN SOME WOULD EVEN DARE TO DIE'' I THINK IT RUNS : SMILING : I AM NOT QUITE SURE ABOUT THE APPLICATION.

RENWICK.

WELL, IT DON'T MUCH MATTER AS TO WHETHER I AM A GOOD MAN CHARLIE, YOU ARE NOT DYING FOR ME, YOU SEE, BUT FOR MY MONEY.

REYNOLDS.

: IN DISGUSTED MANNER : NO DOUBT THAT IS ONE WAY OF PUTTING IT.

RENWICK.

I AM NOT UNDERRATING THE SERVICE YOU PROPOSE TO DO FOR ME. IF YOU ARE SAYING TO YOURSELF THAT I WOULD NOT DO AS MUCH FOR YOU, IF OUR POSITIONS WERE REVERSED, YOU ARE QUITE RIGHT. STILL, TO A POOR MAN,-- THAT IS, TO A 'MAN WHO'S FAMILY IS POOR, TWENTY THOUSAND POUNDS IS A GREAT HEAP OF MONEY.

REYNOLDS.

: SCORNFULLY : NO DOUBT. ONE MIGHT SAY THAT IT IS A GOOD DEAL MORE THAN SOME PEOPLES LIVES ARE WORTH.

RENWICK.

THAT SARCASM CUTS BOTH WAYS. BUT COME, DON'T LET'S QUARREL. IF YOUR OFFER IS GENUINE I ACCEPT IT AND THERE'S AN END.

REYNOLDS.

MY OFFER IS GENUINE AND AS WE HAVE BUT LITTLE TIME WE HAD BETTER NOT.

: FU CHOW ENTERS D. R. :

HERE, FU CHOW!

: THEY TALK TOGETHER ASIDE :

RENWICK.

THE GRINNING SNEAK IS TALKING OF ME.

: FU CHOW'S EYES GLISTEN WHILE HE MAKES GESTURES AT RENWICK :

I WISH I HAD HIM IN MY POWER FOR FIVE MINUTES, I WOULD MAKE HIM REPENT WHAT DOES HE SAY?

REYNOLDS.

HIS HATRED TOWARDS YOU IS GREAT, AND HE REFUSES TO KEEP SILENT UNLESS YOU PAY HIM WELL.

RENWICK.

HOW MUCH DOES THE HEATHEN WANT?

REYNOLDS.

FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS.

RENWICK

THE THIEF..

REYNOLDS.

I CAN SEE NO OTHER WAY THAN TO PAY HIM, EVEN THEN HE REFUSES TO ACCOMPANY YOU, HIS HATRED IS TOO GREAT.

RENWICK.

I DON'T WANT THE SCOUNDREL, IF HE DID GO IT WOULD BE A SORRY JOB FOR HIM.

: ENTER KEEPERS BY D. R. :

REYNOLDS.

HERE ARE THE KEEPERS-- PAY THEM A HUNDRED POUNDS EACH, THEN BE OFF BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

RENWICK.

NOT A CENT SHALL THE THIEVES HAVE UNTIL I AM A SAFE DISTANCE FROM HERE. I WOULD NOT TRUST THEM.

REYNOLDS.

PAY THEM, AND THEY WILL FULFILL THEIR PART. I HAVE MORE FAITH IN THEM THAN YOU HAVE.

RENWICK.

JUST AS YOU SAY.

: PRODUCING A LEATHER PURSE TAKING OUT MONEY AND HANDING TO KEEPERS.:

HERE TAKE IT YOU MURDERING THIEVES, AND HERE YOU GRINNING APE : TO FUCHOW : IS YOURS, MAY YOU ROT BEFORE YOU CAN USE IT.

: FU CHOW TAKES MONEY WITH GRIN OF PLEASURE AND HATRED.:

REYNOLDS.

NOW ONE WORD MORE RENWICK, BEFORE WE PART FOREVER. YOU KNOW MY WILL, IT RESTS WITH YOU TO SEE THAT ITS CONDITIONS ARE MADE EFFECTUAL. I PUT MY CONFIDENCE IN YOU, BEING PERSUADED THAT YOU WILL NOT WRONG A DYING MAN.

RENWICK.

A MAN WHO IS DYING IN MY STEAD, NEVER!

REYNOLDS.

I NEED ADD NOTHING MORE THEN, ON THAT HEAD. TELL HER--- TELL NELLIE THAT MY LAST THOUGHTS WERE OF HER AND HER DEAR MOTHER.---

RENWICK.

YES.

REYNOLDS.

STAY A MOMENT, THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE. I HAVE FANCIED OF LATE FROM SOMETHING IN HER LETTERS,-- NOTHING DISTINCT,--- BUT TO ME WHO HAVE STUDIED THEM WELL, THERE SEEMS A STRAIN OF TENDERNESS IN RELATION TO YOUR SON RAYMOND. UNDER OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES THIS COULD NEVER HAVE BORNE FRUIT. I DON'T BLAME YOU, IT'S YOUR NATURE TO EXAGGERATE THE CLAIMS OF WEALTH; I SAY, HAD NELLIE BEEN POOR I KNOW THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN OUT OF THE QUESTION; BUT NOW SINCE SHE IS RICH, AT YOUR EXPENSE

YOU WILL SAY, BUT SURELY ALSO AT MINE, THERE NEED BE NO SUCH OBJECTION; IF THE YOUNG PEOPLE LOVE EACH OTHER, GRANT MY DYING REQUEST, LET THEM MARRY.

: ALL DURING THIS SPEECH A SCOWL OF DIS-CONTENT IS SEEN ON RENWICKS FACE, HE SEEMS TO HESITATE IN HIS REPLY. :

RENWICK

I WILL BE NO OBSTACLE TO RAYMOND'S VIEWS AS TO YOUR DAUGHTER. THERE WILL AS YOU SAY BE NO GREAT INEQUALITY IN THE WAY OF MONEY BETWEEN THEM, SINCE AFTER THE CONSIDERABLE DIMINUATION IN MY FORTUNE --- HE CAN EXPECT BUT LITTLE FROM ME.

: THE LATTER PART OF LAST SPEECH IS MADE IN A GRUDGING TONE--- REYNOLDS NOTICES IT AND IS PAINED. :

REYNOLDS.

LET'S CUT THIS SHORT. THERE'S NOTHING MORE OF IMPORTANCE TO BE SAID, AND SUCH TALK? IS PAINFUL TO BOTH OF US. THE BOAT AND THE MEN ARE READY. THERE IS A SEDAN AT THE DOOR SO THAT YOU CAN GO ON BOARD UN-SEEN. THE JAILER WILL SEE TWANGHI WHO WILL GIVE ORDERS FOR MY--- THAT IS--- FOR YOUR RETURN TO SHANGHAI IMMEDIATELY. COME, GOOD BYE !

: REACHES OUT HIS HAND AS TEARS COME TO HIS EYES. RENWICK IS ALSO SOFTENED BY THIS SCENE. :

RENWICK.

GOOD BYE REYNOLDS, : AS THEY CLASP HANDS REYNOLDS SPEAKS. :

REYNOLDS.

YOU WILL REMEMBER ALL THAT I HAVE CHARGED YOU WITH?

RENWICK.

HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THAT I SHOULD FORGET IT.

REYNOLDS.

SAY SOMETHING KIND FOR ME TO MY WIFE, AND-- AND-- TELL DEAR NELLIE HOW I LOVED HER.

: THROWS HIMSELF ON COUCH OVERCOME, MAKES SIGN TO JAILERS AND RENWICK TO LEAVE HIM.

KEEPERS TAKE OFF CHAIN AND PUT IT ON REYNOLDS. THEY LEAD RENWICK TO D. R. AS HE GETS TO D. HE TURNS AND SEES REYNOLDS PROSTRATE FORM AND SHUDDERS. ALL EXEUNT EXCEPT FU CHOW WHO STANDS LOOKING AT THEM WITH A PECULIAR GRIN. AFTER DOOR IS CLOSED FU CHOW GLANCES ROUND QUICKLY WITH A LOOK OF SATISFACTION-- SPEAKS AS HE SHAKES MONEY IN HIS HANDS -- POINTING TO REYNOLDS. :

F U C H O W.

ME SAVEE HIM---- WHITE MAN IN DALK HOLE.

: SHUDDERS AND POINTS R. INTERIOR OF PRISON. REYNOLDS APPARENTLY IS LAYING ON COUCH UNCONSCIOUS. FU CHOW SHAKES PRISON DOOR R. AND IS LET OUT BY KEEPER. P A U S E THEN REYNOLDS STAGGERS TO HIS FEET PULLS OUT WATCH. :

REYNOLDS.

: SLOWLY : ONE HOUR AND ALL WILL BE OVER : WORKMEN ARE STILL HAMMERING AT POST : CLICK! CLICK! CLICK! EVERY BLOW YONDER TELLS ME THAT MY TIME IS SHORTER. BUT COME REYNOLDS," YOU'RE A MAN, BESIDES I AM DYING IN A GOOD CAUSE, BETTER THIS, THAN SUICIDE WHICH I HAVE OFTEN CONTEMPLATED. OH NELLIE, OH MY DEAR WIFE I HOPE YOU WILL BE HAPPY NOW. : TAKES PICTURES OUT : LET ME GAZE ON YOU FOR THE LAST TIME. IT HAD BEEN MY HOPE TO EMBRACE YOU SOME DAY; TO PRESS YOU BOTH TO MY LOVING HEART, BUT ALAS THAT WILL NEVER BE ON EARTH, MAY GOD GRANT IT IN HEAVEN. COME, THIS WILL NEVER DO, : PUTS PICTURES AWAY : I MUST HAVE A STRONG HEART TO MEET THIS TERRIBLE FATE I WILL TALK TO FU CHOW.---- COME FU CHOW! : HEARING NO ANSWER LOOKS ROUND : HAS HE DESERTED ME? ALAS HIS GREED SATISFIED AND RENWICK'S GOLD IN HIS POCKETS I SUPPOSE HE HAS JOINED THE MOB TO WITNESS MY DEATH--- POOR IGNORANT WRETCH. BUT I WONT COMPLAIN, ITS HIS NATURE, THE POOR SOUL KNOWS NO BETTER. NO, I WONT DIE COMPLAINING OF A SINGLE MAN. : NOISES HEARD AT R. D. : WHAT'S THAT! IS IT POSSIBLE THEY HAVE COME BEFORE THE TIME--- WELL THEY SHALL SEE THAT I DIE LIKE A MAN.

: BRACES UP R. D. OPENS FU CHOW ENTERS WITH KEEPERS. THEY HAVE A WHITE MAN IN CHARGE, A MISERABLE PALE LOOKING WRETCH WITH HAGGARD LOOKS, CLOTHES TORN AND SEEDY-BEARD AND HAIR IN TANGLED MASS-- HANDS

PINIONED IN FRONT IN SUCH A MANNER THAT HE CAN RAISE THEM TO HIS EYES.]

WHITE-MAN.

[IN AGONY] MY GOD, MEN, KILL ME. WHERE AM I -- OH MY EYES! MY EYES! [UNDERGOING GREAT PAIN] KILL ME! END MY SUFFERINGS! SEND ME TO HELL RATHER THAN STAY HERE ANOTHER MOMENT.

KEEPERS.

LING CHIH! LING CHIH!

REYNOLDS.

WHAT'S THIS FU CHOW?

FU CHOW.

[WITH GESTURES] WHITEE MAN SAVEE YOU--- HE LING CHIH----- YOU GOEE--- LOOKEE---- I PAY [OFFERING MONEY TO KEEPERS]

REYNOLDS

[SEMI ASIDE] I SEE, HE HAS PROCURED A SUBSTITUTE,-- BUT NO,-- NO MAN SHALL SUFFER FOR ME. [GOING TO ENGLISHMAN] I AM CONDEMNED TO DEATH, IN AN HOUR THEY WILL EXECUTE ME--- THEY HAVE BROUGHT YOU TO TAKE MY PLACE BUT I REFUSE THEIR OFFER.

WHITE MAN.

[IN SURPRISE] WHO ARE YOU? AN ENGLISHMAN TOO --- YOUR VOICE IS MUSIC TO MY EARS.

REYNOLDS.

WHERE DID THEY BRING YOU FROM?

WHITE MAN

[EXCITEDLY] FROM HELL, AYE WORSE THAN HELL! OH BEG THEM TO KILL ME! IF THEY WONT, YOU KILL ME-- DO THE DYING A BLESSING-- KILL ME!

REYNOLDS.

[GOING CLOSER] BE CALM! TELL ME WHO ARE YOU? WHY DO YOU WISH DEATH?

WHITE MAN.

THEY HAVE DRIVEN ME MAD! WHO AM I? I AM A MURDERER; YET HEAVEN KNOWS I HAVE SUFFERED FOR MY CRIME. FOR MONTHS HAVE I BEEN IN A HOLE

SO DARK ;SHUDDERS.; THAT THE LIGHT ALMOST KILLS ME. HALF STARVED IN A DARK COLD DAMP DUNGEON LEAGUES BELOW THE EARTH AS IT SEEMED TO ME. I HAVE SUFFERED THE TORTURES OF THE DAMNED-- LET THEM END MY MISERY--- YOU SAY YOU ARE TO BE EXECUTED. I IMPLORE YOU, LET ME TAKE YOUR PLACE' DEATH WILL BE A PLEASURE. IF I HAD MY CHOICE BETWEEN LIBERTY AND DEATH, I WOULD CRY GIVE ME DEATH--- LIBERTY WOULD DO ME NO GOOD. THEY HAVE ROBBED ME OF REASON; THEY HAVE EVEN TAKEN MY BLOOD FROM MY VEINS. DO LET ME TAKE YOUR PLACE. DON'T LET THEM TAKE ME BACK TO THE CURSED DUNGEON.

REYNOLDS.

HERE IS A MAN MORE MISERABLE THAN I, THAT PREFERS MY PLACE TO HIS OWN---THIS IS HORRIBLE. WHAT SHALL I DO--- WHY NOT GRANT HIS REQUEST AND I MAY YET SEE NELLIE---- BUT STAY, IS IT RIGHT--FU CHOW!

;THEY TALK TOGETHER, WHILE WHITE MAN SPEAKS.;

WHITE MAN.

;IMPATIENTLY.; ANSWER ME! SAY YES! LET ME SEE YOU! ;TAKES HANDS FROM EYES SHUDDERS WITH PAIN.; HORRORS! THE LIGHT KILLS ME-- OH, END MY MISERY! WHAT AM I? A ROBBER, A THIEF, AYE A MURDERER! I AM CONDEMNED TO DIE, WHY DO THEY TORTURE ME THUS--, WHY NOT END MY SUFFERINGS-- WHY DON'T THEY GIVE ME A CHANCE TO KILL MYSELF? NO! HANDS PINICNED, AND CHAINED TO THE DAMP FLOOR OF THE DUNGEON, WHERE THE ONLY SOUNDS EVER HEARD WERE THE CLICKING OF THE DOOR, THEY EVEN DEPRIVE ME OF A CHANCE TO END MY OWN SUFFERINGS. ;DELIRIOUS; COME TO ME! YOU! THE ENGLISHMAN-- WHERE IS HE?

;REYNOLDS NOW CEASES TO TALK TO FU CHOW--TURNS TO ENGLISHMAN.;

REYNOLDS.

BE CALM, MY POOR MAN. I KNOW ALL. YOU HAVE BEEN IN PRISON MONTHS IN THE ''DARK HOLE.'' YOU ARE CONDEMNED TO THE LING CHIH, THE SAME AS MYSELF, ALTHOUGH YOUR SENTENCE IS A JUST ONE; MINE IS NOT. YOUR CRIME WAS MURDER, MAY HEAVEN FORGIVE YOU. A FRIEND OF MINE, FU CHOW HAS BRIBED THE JAILORS TO HAVE YOU SUFFER MY PUNISHMENT. YOU IMPLORE ME TO ACCEPT THE SITUATION ;WITH A STRUGGLE; BUT STILL I MUST DECLINE.

WHITE MAN.

;IN PLEADING TONES; OH, DON'T SAY THAT, I BESEECH YOU RECONSIDER. MY SENTENCE IS A JUST ONE. I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A BAD MAN. EVEN IF

LIBERTY AND LIFE WERE AT HAND IT WOULD BE A BLESSING TO SOCIETY TO HAVE ME KILLED. I BELIEVE YOU AN INNOCENT MAN. I AM TO DIE ANYWAY-- YOU ARE TO DIE-- ACCEPT MY PROPOSITION, SAVE ONE LIFE AND END MY TORTURES. THEN YOU MAY HAVE A FAMILY-- CHILDREN WHOM YOU DEARLY LOVE; A LOVING WIFE ---

: THIS AFFECTS REYNOLDS TERRIBLY AND HE IS ON POINT OF STOPPING HIM. :

I NEVER HAD I WAS TOO BAD--- MY WHOLE LIFE HAS BEEN ONE OF SIN. SAVE ME! FOR IF I DIE TO-DAY, I DIE REPENTING; ANOTHER DAY IN THE DUNGEON, AND I DIE CURSING MY OWN MAKER.

REYNOLDS.

: AFFECTED : THE MAN SPEAKS TRULY--- WE'RE BOTH CONDEMNED-- HE HAS NO FRIENDS OR FAMILY; WHILE I --- I --- I CAN'T WITHSTAND THE TEMPTATION-- I AM NOT AS STRONG AS I SUPPOSED --- NELLIE, MY DEAR NELLIE, MY WIFE-- I MUST SEE YOU. MY POOR MAN I ACCEPT YOUR OFFER.

: MAKES SIGN OF CONSENT TO FU CHOW, WHO GOES TO KEEPERS AND PAYS THEM MONEY. REYNOLDS LOOKS AT WATCH. :

NOT A MINUTE TO SPARE, IN TWENTY MINUTES THEY WILL BE HERE -- LISTEN! THEY ARE CONGREGATING BY THOUSANDS. MY POOR FRIEND MY HEART BLEEDS FOR YOU. PRAY TO YOUR GOD FOR FORGIVENESS, IN A LITTLE WHILE ALL WILL BE OVER.

: JAILERS TAKE CHAIN OFF REYNOLDS ETC. CHINAMEN ARE GATHERING WITHOUT L. AND ARE NOISY. A GUARD WALKS UP AND DOWN KEEPING THE CROWD BACK IN WINGS L. AND BACK PRISON R. THUS :

WHITE MAN.

THANK HEAVEN FOR THAT : WITH SMILE OF PLEASURE : GIVE ME YOUR HAND : TAKES HAND : NO, YOUR HAND IS NOT ENOUGH, LET ME EMBRACE YOU : EMBRACES REYNOLDS : I CAN'T SEE YOU, FOR THEY HAVE ROBBED ME OF MY SIGHT-- GOOD BYE, AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND FORGIVE ME.

REYNOLDS.

THERE, THERE! DON'T UNMAN ME -- I CAN BEAR THIS NO LONGER--- COME FU CHOW YOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT, YOU WHO HAVE SAVED ME. YET HE MIGHT HAVE TOLD RENWICK OF THIS MAN'S PRESENCE IN THE PRISON--- NO, HIS HATRED WAS TOO GREAT. GOOD BYE MY POOR FELLOW, REPENT WHILE ITS NOT TOO LATE AND MAY HEAVEN BE MERCIFUL.

: EXIT WITH KEEPERS D. R. :

WHITE MAN.

: SOLUS : NOW I AM HAPPY. EVEN HELL'S FIRE WOULD BE NOTHING TO WHAT I'VE ENDURED--- HUSH! WHAT ARE THOSE SOUNDS.

: CHINAMEN WHO HAVE BEEN GATHERING OUTSIDE NOW BECOME NOISY AND IMPATIENT-- SEVERAL BREAK PAST GUARD AND SHAKE L. D. :

OH THEY ARE COMING TO TAKE ME -- LET ME PRAY BEFORE I GO, THANK HEAVEN A GOOD MOTHER TAUGHT ME HOW TO DO THAT.

: KNEELS AND TURNS HEAD HEAVENWARD -- CHINAMEN BECOME MORE EXCITED --- HE NEVER FLINCHES-- SEEMS CALM AND COMPOSED. :

QUICK CURTAIN.

THE SHAY-LE.

ACT 2.

ACT I.

THE HOME OF CHARLES REYNOLDS.

SCENE ONE.

THE [illegible] AT RICHMOND. SHOWING A SET COTTAGE R. OCCUPYING PART OF STAGE. [illegible]-TIONAL VIEW [illegible] SITTING ROOM. [illegible] WINDOW AT BACK OR L. CONTAINING COLLECTION OF FLOWERS OR VINES. ROOM NEATLY FURNISHED. IN DISTANCE AT BACK VIEW OF SEA. TIME SUPPOSED TO HAVE ELAPSED SINCE LAST ACT SIX MONTHS.
AT RISE MRS. REYNOLDS DISCOVERED SEATED L. OF TABLE, MRS. JOHNSON R. OF TABLE. NELLIE AT WINDOW L. ARRANGING FLOWERS.

MRS. JOHNSON.

WHEN DID YOU LAST HEAR FROM CHINA?

MRS. REYNOLDS.

SIX MONTHS AGO.

MRS. JOHNSON.

LOR' BLESS ME, SO LONG AGO AS THAT. WHERE WERE THEY THEN?

MRS. REYNOLDS.

WHERE WAS IT, NELLIE? I CAN'T REMEMBER THE OUTLANDISH NAMES.

NELLIE.

THE LETTER WAS FROM SHANGHAI. THEY WERE JUST ABOUT TO START FOR THE NORTHERN PART OF THE EMPIRE. PAPA WROTE THAT THEY EXPECTED TO HAVE A DELIGHTFUL TIME. IN A FEW MONTHS THEY WOULD BE IN THE MOST UNCIVILIZED PART OF CHINA.

MRS. JOHNSON.

OH MY, HOW IT MUST TROUBLE YOU, MRS. REYNOLDS, TO THINK THAT YOUR HUSBAND IS AMONG THEM ERE BARBARIANS. I'M SURE IT WOULD KILL ME.

MRS. REYNOLDS.

YES; AND TO THINK THAT HE IS WITH THAT RASCAL, RALPH RENWICK--- I CAN NEVER FORGIVE HIM FOR GOING WITH HIM.

NELLIE.

[IN REPROACHFUL TONE.] WHY MAMMA!

MRS. REYNOLDS.

HUSH, MY DEAR. YOU KNOW I NEVER LIKED HIM, AND FOR THAT NONE OF THE FAMILY---THERE'S BAD BLOOD THERE I TELL YOU. I NEVER LIKED THE LOOKS OF THE MAN, AND TOLD YOUR FATHER SO; BUT NO, HE MUST GO OFF WITH HIM, FIRST TO ONE COUNTRY AND THEN ANOTHER UNTIL NOW THEY'RE IN CHINA. HE OUGHT TO BE HERE. WHAT DOES HE GET FOR IT? NOTHING! WHY RALPH RENWICK IS TOO MEAN TO PAY HIM DECENTLY. YOUR FATHER ALLOWS EVERYBODY TO IMPOSE UPON HIM, I ALWAYS SAID HE WAS TOO GOOD NATURED.

MRS. JOHNSON.

YOU SHOULD DO LIKE I DO, MRS. REYNOLDS. WHY, MY HUSBAND WOULDN'T THINK OF GOING EVEN TO LONDON WITHOUT MY PERMISSION, LET ALONE CHINA; BUT THEN SOME HUSBANDS ARE DIFFERENT, YOU KNOW-- ARTISTS ARE DIFFERENT ANYWAY.

[NELLIE GIVES MRS. JOHNSON A REPROACHFUL LOOK.

MRS. REYNOLDS.

THAT'S SO--- AND HERE IT'S SIX MONTHS SINCE WE HEARD FROM HIM-- WHY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD DO IF IT WASN'T FOR THE LITTLE MONEY I HAVE SAVED OF MY OWN; FOR HE SENDS BUT LITTLE. I CAN NEVER FORGIVE HIM FOR GOING ON THIS EXPEDITION.

NELLIE.

WHY, MAMMA, YOU KNOW PAPA IS SO VERY KIND AND DOES THE BEST HE CAN. EVEN WHEN HE STARTED WITH MR. RENWICK HE THOUGHT IT WAS THE VERY BEST THING TO DO.

MRS. REYNOLDS.

[SOMEWHAT EXCITED.] DON'T MENTION THAT NAME-- I HATE IT! I HATE THE LOOKS OF THE MAN!

NELLIE.

[RUNNING TO HER MOTHER.] NOW THERE, DEAR MAMMA, YOU SHOULD NOT GET ANGRY AT MR. RENWICK. PAPA WRITES ME THAT HE HAS BEEN VERY KIND TO HIM. I AM SURE IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE WE RECEIVE A LETTER. YOU KNOW IT'S A LONG DISTANCE TO CHINA, I AM SURE WE WILL HEAR FROM HIM BY THE NEXT MAIL. NOW THERE, CHEER UP. [KISSES HER]

MRS. REYNOLDS.

YES, MY DEAR CHILD, I KNOW; BUT WHEN I THINK OF YOUR FATHER'S LONG ABSENCE, AND HIS CONSTANT DANGER, IT MAKES ME FEEL SO SAD.

NELLIE.

I KNOW, DEAR MAMMA; BUT PAPA IS ENDEAVORING TO DO THE BEST; AND I'M SURE WE OUGHT NOT TO COMPLAIN. BUT THERE, LET'S DROP THE MATTER. I MUST SEE TO MY BIRDS. [KISSES HER.] GOOD BYE!

[EXITS.]

MRS. JOHNSON.

[MATTER OF FACT TONE.] OH, THEIR YOUNG HEARTS DON'T KNOW THE ANXIETIES OF A WIFE--- SHE MAY KNOW WHEN SHE'S MARRIED.

MRS. REYNOLDS.

[EMPHATIC.] MAY THAT NEVER BE!

MRS. JOHNSON.

FROM WHAT I HAVE HEARD, I JUDGE IT WILL BE; AND THAT SOON. IT'S NOT UNCOMMON TALK ABOUT HER AND RAYMOND RENWICK-----

MRS. REYNOLDS.

[QUICKLY.] NEVER! DON'T MENTION THE NAME.....I DESPISE IT. THE NEXT TIME HE COMES I SHALL FORBID HIM THE HOUSE.

MRS. JOHNSON.

BUT FOLKS DO SAY HE IS VERY SMART; THAT HE IS RICH. WHY, THE FATHER HAS BANKS OF MONEY.

MRS. REYNOLDS.

IF HE WAS THE RICHEST MAN IN ENGLAND, MY DAUGHTER SHOULD NEVER MARRY HIM. THERE'S BAD BLOOD IN THE FAMILY, I TELL YOU.

MRS. JOHNSON.

WELL, I DARE SAY THERE IS; BUT THE SON ALWAYS SEEMED TO ME A MUCH BETTER MAN THAN THE FATHER, THO' I NEVER SAW MUCH OF EITHER.

MRS. REYNOLDS.

DON'T TALK TO ME OF HIM, OR THE SON. I DON'T LIKE THEM, ALTHO' NELLIE IS CONSTANTLY TRYING TO PERSUADE ME HE IS A NICE YOUNG MAN. MY MIND IS MADE UP. I MUST NOT PERMIT THEM TO BE TOGETHER; AND THE NEXT TIME HE COMES I WILL GIVE HIM TO UNDERSTAND HIS VISITS

ARE TO CEASE.

MRS. JOHNSON.

IT'S JUST AS WELL, FOR MAY BE AFTER ALL HE IS ONLY TRIFLING WITH HER AFFECTIONS AS THESE RICH PEOPLE'S SONS DO NOW-A-DAYS. BUT COME, YOU KNOW YOU PROMISED TO CALL WITH ME ON OUR NEW NEIGHBORS, THE WILKINS.

MRS. REYNOLDS.

THAT'S SO. ;RISES AND GOES TO WARDROBE IN CORNER AND PUTS BONNET ON;

I HEAR THEY ARE VERY WEALTHY.

MRS. JOHNSON.

YES; AND THEIR DAUGHTERS DRESS IN THE LATEST PARIS FASHIONS.

MRS. REYNOLDS.

INDEED!

;STARTS TO EXIT R. U. E. AS NELLIE ENTERS;

NELLIE.

GOING OUT?

MRS. REYNOLDS.

YES, MY DEAR, TO CALL ON OUR NEW NEIGHBORS. I'LL BE BACK SOON.

NELLIE.

;GOING UP AND KISSING MOTHER; GOOD BYE! ;AFTER THEY EXEUNT--SOLUS;

SHE'S A DEAR, GOOD MAMMA; BUT GETS VEXED AT TIMES. I WONDER WHY SHE HATES THE RENWICKS SO MUCH.

;RAYMOND SEEN JUST WITHIN D. L.;

I'M SURE THERE'S NO ONE LIKE RAYMOND---

RAYMOND.

;ENTERS QUICKLY AND EMBRACES HER; THANK YOU!

NELLIE.

;CONFUSED AND BLUSHING; O! --- I DIDN'T MEAN--- I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE THERE.

RAYMOND.

NO; I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU DID. THAT'S THE TIME I CAUGHT YOU. THEN, YOU LITTLE FRAUD, PRETENDING AT TIMES YOU DON'T CARE FOR ME.

;KISSES HER AND DISEMBARRASSES HIMSELF.;

NELLIE.

OH, RAYMOND!

RAYMOND.

COME, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

NELLIE.

TRAINING MY VINES-- WON'T YOU HELP?

RAYMOND.

OF COURSE. HOW?

NELLIE.

;HANDING HIM A PINE BOARD.; HERE, CUT ME SOME LITTLE STICKS TO TRAIN THEM ON.

RAYMOND.

WITH PLEASURE.

;TAKES LARGE POCKET KNIFE FROM POCKET, COMMENCES TO CUT STICKS, HANDING HER A COUPLE.;

THERE.

;SHE STICKS THEM IN THE EARTH OF THE POTS, MAKING A SORT OF TRELLIS FOR THE VINES-- RAYMOND LEANS OVER HER IN AFFECTIONATE MANNER.

OH, AREN'T THEY NICE! WHEN WE ARE MARRIED, WON'T WE HAVE LOTS OF NICE FLOWERS AND BIRDS. WHY, I'LL BUY OUT HALF THE FLORISTS AND BIRD STORES IN LONDON.

NELLIE.

THAT TIME IS A LONG WAYS OFF.

RAYMOND.

;LAYING KNIFE ON STAND AND TAKING HER A LITTLE ASIDE--ONE ARM ROUND HER LOOKING DOWN AFFECTIONATELY; IT COULD BE TO-MORROW IF YOU WOULD JUST SAY THE WORD.

NELLIE.

BUT THE OBSTACLES.

RAYMOND.

WHAT ARE THEY? I AM SURE MY FATHER WOULD BE WILLING THAT [illegible]

WOULD MARRY THE WOMAN HE LOVES-- AND AS FOR YOUR MOTHER--I KNOW SHE DISLIKES ME, BUT I'D MAKE HER LOVE ME IN TIME.

:EMBRACING MORE FERVENTLY.:

NELLIE.

YES; WE COULD BOTH MAKE HER LOVE YOU, BUT---- YOUR FATHER WOULD NEVER SANCTION THE MARRIAGE OF HIS SON TO A POOR GIRL.

:DROPPING HEAD A LITTLE.:

RAYMOND.

OH, YOUR MOTHER HAS PREJUDICED YOU AGAINST HIM--BUT WHAT IF HE DIDN'T, WHAT MATTERS IT? YOU LOVE ME?

NELLIE.

:WITH FORCE.: YES, RAYMOND, YES.

:CLINGING CLOSER TO HIM:

RAYMOND.

:WITH EMOTION AND PASSION.: SAY THEN YOU WILL MARRY ME--SAY THE WORD THAT WILL MAKE ME HAPPY FOR LIFE, DARLING. COME!

NELLIE.

:AS IF IT WAS A GREAT TASK.: NO, RAYMOND, I CANNOT. WHAT! BLIGHT YOUR FUTURE--YOUR FATHER WOULD DISOWN YOU,-- CUT YOU OFF WITHOUT A PENNY. NO, I CAN'T DO THAT.

RAYMOND.

OH NO! WHAT ARE FORTUNES TO ME--WHAT IS MY FUTURE WITHOUT YOU? OH, COME, NELLIE, DON'T BE CRUEL.

:AS IF A SUDDEN THOUGHT STRUCK HIM, AS LOOSING HIS EMBRACE:

OH, I SEE; IT'S MY FORTUNE--YOU WOULD NOT MARRY A POOR MAN.

NELLIE.

:WITH A--IS REMARK: OH, RAYMOND, WHO'S CRUEL NOW?

RAYMOND.

I [illegible] SAYING IT--THERE, PARDON ME, DARLING. :[illegible]: I [illegible] IT'S OF MY ARM [illegible] YOU [illegible]. BUT [illegible], [illegible] I [illegible] THAT YOU WOULD [illegible] A [illegible]. [illegible] MONEY CANNOT PURCHASE A LOVING HEART. [illegible]! [illegible]. I [illegible] A [illegible] HEART, AND [illegible] IF MY [illegible]

I [illegible] MY NELLIE. WHAT PLEASURE THERE WOULD BE IN THAT-- OH, MY YES, YES?

:EMBRACES HER MORE AFFECTIONATELY.:

NELLIE.

:TRYING TO DISENGAGE HERSELF: DON'T, RAYMOND--IT'S [illegible] YOU TO PERMIT SO.

RAYMOND.

IT'S NOT WRONG TO [illegible] IT IS A [illegible] PURSUIT. COME, NELLIE, SAY YES.

NELLIE.

NO, NO! I CAN'T-- NOT NOW.

RAYMOND.

YOU GIVE ME HOPE THEN?

NELLIE.

WELL, I--THAT IS-- YES.

RAYMOND.

THERE'S A DEAR!

:EMBRACES HER ONCE MORE JUST AS STRAIT BETSEY ENTERS R. U. E. SHE SEES THE CIVIL EXPLANATION."AH!" THEY HEAR HER. :SEPARATE THEMSELVES IMMEDIATELY AND APPEAR CONFUSED.:

NELLIE.

OH, BETSEY!

BETSEY.

:CONFUSED.: OH, MARY, I BEG YOUR PARDON--BUT REALLY,-- I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING.

:HOLDING FANNY TO FACE AS IF TO MIRE HER VIEW.:

RAYMOND.

:LAUGHING.: NO! BETSEY DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING, AND PERHAPS THAT WAS BEST ANYHOW, I EVER TELL ANYTHING.:FANNY'S HEAD COME: EH? DO THEY, BETSEY?

BETSEY.

:CHUCKLING AT SIGHT OF COIN.: AYE, MASTER RAYMOND, THAT'S A FACT. :SPITTING ON COIN--ASIDE.: I BE BLIND AS A BAT AND DEAF AS A WEASEL. :TO RAYMOND.: THANKEE SIR, THANKEE. OH, I CAME NEAR FORGETTIN'

:TAKING NOTE FROM APRON POCKET:

HERE'S BE A NOTE LEFT FOR YOU, MISS NELLIE.

:HANDING NELLIE NOTE--NELLIE OPENS NOTE AND READS, THEN LAUGHS HEARTILY.:

RAYMOND.

WHAT IS IT, NELLIE?

NELLIE.

READ FOR YOURSELF.

:HANDS NOTE TO RAYMOND.:

RAYMOND.

:READING.: ''DEAR NELLIE; TOMMY SWALLOWED A PIN!'' :PAUSES: A PIN!

BETSEY.

:THROWING UP HER HANDS.: LOR' BLESS US!

RAYMOND.

CONTINUES TO READ.: ''OH, PLEASE COME OVER AT ONCE-- I'M SURE HIS LIFE IS IN DANGER--THE POOR LITTLE FELLOW.

YOURS, MRS. WARDLOW.''

NELLIE.

:LAUGHS AGAIN.: WHAT NONSENSE! WHY, THE FELLOW IS LARGE AND HEALTHY ENOUGH TO DIGEST AN OYSTER SHELL-- YOU KNOW HIM-- THE BUTCHER'S BOY YOU HAVE SO OFTEN SEEN.

RAYMOND.

:LAUGHS.: WHY, I SHOULD THINK HE COULD DIGEST 5 PIECES OF PIN, JUDGING FROM HIS SIZE.

NELLIE.

WELL, I HOPE YOU OVER FOR A WHILE. YOU WILL BE GOOD ME!

:STARTS TO GO.:

[illegible].

NONSENSE! LET HIM DIE.

[illegible].

[LAUGHING.] [illegible] HALGEN OF THAT; [illegible], I THINK THE WORLD OF MRS. WARDLOW, SHE'S [illegible] THAT I MUST HUMOR HER WHIMS-- I'LL RETURN SOON.

[HAVING PUT ON JAUNTY HAT STARTS TO GO.]

RAYMOND.

BUT, ALLOW ME TO ACCOMPANY YOU.

NELLIE.

NOT FOR THE WORLD! WAIT, I'LL RETURN SOON. GOOD BYE.

[THROWS HIM KISS--EXITS BY GARDEN.]

BETSEY.

[WHO HAS BEEN ALL THE TIME DUSTING AND ARRANGING ROUND ROOM, AFTER NELLIE EXITS.] SHE BE A GOOD, KIND GIRL, SHE BE. SHE'S ALWAYS 'TENDING THE SICK.

RAYMOND.

THAT'S TRUE, BETSEY-- BUT TELL ME, YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT THIS HOUSE. HER MOTHER DISLIKES ME, I FANCY.

[RISES AND APPROACHES BETSEY.]

BETSEY.

[HESITATING.] WELL, NOW-- I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I SHOULD BE A TELLIN'-- [illegible]

RAYMOND.

[HANDING HER COIN.] COME, BETSEY, I'LL KEEP IT A SECRET.

BETSEY.

WELL, SEEIN' THAT IT'S YOU, MISTER RAYMOND, I DON'T MIND A TELLIN' YOU THAT SHE HATES YOU. BUT THEN MISS NELLIE, SHE DO LIKE YOU VERY MUCH AND ALWAYS SPEAKS UP FOR YOU.

RAYMOND.

[SEMI-ASIDE.] THE DARLING!

BETSEY.

[ALSO--TWISTING HERSELF AS IF BASHFUL YET PLEASED.] WHY WOULD

HAVE THOUGHT IT? HE CALLS ME A DARLING.

RAYMOND.

SO NELLIE TAKES MY PART.

BETSEY.

THAT SHE DOES; AND IF 'TWERN'T FOR HER YOU'D HAVE NEED TO MEE FROM THE HOUSE LONG AFORE THIS.

RAYMOND.

AH, INDEED! ⁝SEMI ASIDE.⁝ BLESS HER SWEET SOUL.
⁝GOES TOWARDS TABLE.⁝

BETSEY.

OH, MISTER RAYMOND!---- BUT I MUSTN'T STAY HERE OR THE DINNER WILL BURN--

RAYMOND.

THAT'S A GOOD GIRL, DON'T LET THE DINNER SPOIL.

BETSEY.

⁝GOING TO D.⁝ MIND, MISTER RAYMOND, PLEASE DON'T SAY A WORD WHAT I TOLD YOU.

RAYMOND.

DEPEND UPON ME.

BETSEY.

OH, ISN'T HE A NICE YOUNG MAN.
⁝EXITS R. U. E.⁝

RAYMOND.

⁝SITTING L. OF TABLE, TAKING UP BOOK AND TURNING PAGES CARELESSLY.⁝
⁝SOLILOQUIZES⁝ WELL, WELL, SHE'S A DEAR, GOOD GIRL, AND I LOVE HER. I WONDER WHY HER MOTHER SHOULD HAVE SUCH AN AVERSION TO ME. OH, WELL, SHE WILL CHANGE HER MIND SOME DAY. HOW GOOD IN NELLIE NOT DESIRING TO RUIN MY FUTURE. BUT MY FATHER SHALL GIVE HIS CONSENT. I WILL WRITE HIM THIS VERY DAY--AND-- AND-- EVEN SHOULD HE SAY NO, I WILL MARRY HER ANY WAY. YES, NELLIE, WITHOUT YOU LIFE WOULD HAVE NO PLEASURES FOR ME. HOW DULL AND STUPID IT IS OUT OF HER PRESENCE. I WILL STROLL AND MEET HER.
⁝LIGHTS CIGAR, STROLLS OUT THROUGH GARDEN GATE--EXCES OFF L. EMPTY STAGE. PAUSE!

[illegible] DALEY [illegible] AND SERVANT [illegible] THROUGH GATE. [illegible] IS DRESSED IN HEAVY BLACK TRAVELLING SUIT AND HAS THE APPEARANCE OF HAVING JUST RETURNED FROM A LONG JOURNEY. HE LOOKS A TRIFLE [illegible] STERN AND HARDENED THAN IN LAST ACT, AND IS GRUFF AND SHORT IN HIS SPEECH.

RENWICK.

IS THIS THE PLACE?

SERVANT.

YES.

RENWICK.

:AS IF DISGUSTED.: A QUEER SORT OF A HABITATION--GREGORY, WHO WAS THAT JUST LEFT HERE? SEE!

SERVANT.

:LOOKING LOW ROAD L.: WHY, BLESS MY EYES! IT'S YOUR SON.

RENWICK.

:SCOWLING.: CURSE HIM! HE HERE--WELL, IT'S GOOD WE DIDN'T MEET. BUT COME, YOU REMAIN HERE AND WAIT FOR ME WHILE I GO WITHIN.

:SERVANT SITS DOWN ON BENCH IN GARDEN--RENWICK GOES TO D. R. WHICH IS PARTLY OPEN.--KNOCKS, NO ANSWER.

NO ONE AT HOME. I'LL ENTER ANY WAY.

:ENTERS, SITS R. OF TABLE. SOLUS--:

THIS IS A DEVLISH UNPLEASANT MISSION; BUT IT IS THE BEST--IT'S NOT A BAD ONE. TO GIVE TWENTY THOUSAND POUNDS TO AN ENEMY WOULD BE A RASH ACT. THEY'RE MY ENEMIES--THE DAUGHTER LOVES RAYMOND, AND THIS SUM WOULD MAKE HER,--THEM RICH, AND THE OBSTACLE, MY PRINCIPLE OBJECTION TO THEIR MARRIAGE WOULD BE REMOVED. BESIDES +OH, IT IS A GOOD DEAL. THE DEVIL! I PAID DEARLY ENOUGH FOR MY ENEMIES, WHY SHOULD I DO MORE? IT WAS IN A MOMENT OF IRRATIONAL APPREHENSION THAT I OFFERED REYNOLDS THE SUM, AND HE TOOK MY WORDS AS THOUGH THEY HAD BEEN AN AGREEMENT ON STAMPED PAPER. IF I HAD SAID A MILLION HE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE CLAIMED THE SAME. THE AMOUNT WAS TOO LARGE-- TWENTY THOUSAND POUNDS! MORE THAN HE EVER WOULD HAVE CLAIMED . PSHA! I'M NOT BOUND TO GIVE IT. THERE'S NOT A WITNESS LIVING, TO THE ACT, ONLY THE JAILORS AND THAT HEATHEN CHOW, AND THEY'LL NEVER SEE ENGLAND. REYNOLDS IS DEAD! UGH!

:SHUDDERS.:

[illegible] THAT I HADN'T RETURNED TO THE PRISON AFTER MY ESCAPE. [illegible] I HURRIED TO SAVE HIM, AND AFTER GETTING SAFELY TO [illegible] I RETURNED IN DISGUISE WITH A BODY OF SOLDIERS; BUT TOO LATE, THE FIENDS HAD LITERALLY CUT HIM UP BEYOND RECOGNITION-- WHAT A SIGHT! [SHUDDERS] A DIZZINESS SEEMS TO SEIZE ME EVERY TIME I THINK OF IT. HE PAYED IT LIKE A MAN, AND I OUGHT TO SEE THAT HE LOSES NOTHING BY IT,-- BUT TWELVE THOUSAND POUNDS IS TOO MUCH. I WILL PROVIDE FOR HIS FAMILY, AND THEN I AM DOING MORE THAN OTHERS WOULD DO UNDER THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES. MRS. REYNOLDS NEVER LIKED ME, IS IT PROPER THAT I SHOULD PUT MONEY IN HER HANDS? NO! I HAVE THOUGHT THE MATTER OVER AND THE MORE I CONSIDER IT, THE MORE I AM CONVINCED THAT IT WOULD BE WRONG TO PAY THIS MONEY. WELL, THAT'S SETTLED. NOW I MUST MEET HER, TELL HER ALL-- THAT IS, THAT REYNOLDS IS DEAD, [illegible] TELL HER HOW I [illegible] IT [illegible] IT IS, [illegible] THERE! SOME ONE IS COMING.

[MRS. REYNOLDS ENTERS FROM L. [illegible] AS THE [illegible] OF THE [illegible]. SHE SEES HIM AND STARTS [illegible]

MRS. REYNOLDS.

RALPH RENWICK!

RENWICK.

MRS. REYNOLDS! [BOWING BOW.]

MRS. REYNOLDS.

YOU HERE!---AND MY HUSBAND-- YES, MY HUSBAND, WHERE IS HE.

RENWICK.

[PAUSE AND ASSURED.] SIT DOWN, MADAME, AND I WILL TELL YOU ALL.
[OFFERS HER CHAIR, SHE WAIVES HIM AWAY.]

MRS. REYNOLDS.

ALL! WHAT DO YOU MEAN!

RENWICK.

THAT YOUR HUSBAND IS DEAD---MURDERED!

MRS. REYNOLDS.

[STARTING.] DEAD! DEAD! NO, IT CAN'T BE TRUE-
[SINKING INTO THE CHAIR R. OF TABLE.]

RENWICK.

[SUDDENLY AFFECTED--ASIDE.] WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH US, COURAGE! COURAGE! OR ALL WILL BE LOST. [TO MRS. REYNOLDS.] COMPOSE YOURSELF, MADAME, AND YOU SHALL KNOW THE SAD STORY.

MRS. REYNOLDS.

NO SIR! SPEAK! TELL ME THE TRUTH!

[LOOKS STRAIGHT AT HIM.]

RENWICK.

[NEVER FLINCHES.] IT IS A PAINFUL DUTY. YOUR HUSBAND HAS MET WITH A MOST CRUEL FATE. WHILE VISITING A CHINESE TEMPLE ON A FEAST DAY HE PERPETRATED A JOKE ON THE HEATHENS, THAT IS, HE TOOK FROM ONE OF THE TEMPLES THE SACRED SHAY-LE, OR THEIR GOD, WHICH WAS NO MORE THAN A ROUND CRYSTAL OF GLASS, NEVERTHELESS A THING PUNISHABLE ONLY BY DEATH; AND BEFORE SEVENTY-FOUR HOURS HAD ELAPSED, HE WAS TO PRISON AND EXECUTED IN THE MOST HORRIBLE MANNER. I WILL SPARE YOU THE PAIN THAT WOULD BE OCCASIONED BY A RECITAL OF HIS CRUEL DEATH----

MRS. REYNOLDS.

[RISING HIGHER AND HIGHER DURING THIS SPEECH, WALKS STRAIGHT TO HIM WITH FIERCENESS.] IT'S A LIE.

RENWICK.

HUM, MADAME!

MRS. REYNOLDS.

I KNOW CHARLES REYNOLDS BETTER THAN TO BELIEVE THE CAPABLE OF THE OFFENCE YOU IMPUTE TO HIM. HE WAS NOT ONE TO DEFILE TEMPLES AND BREAK DOWN IMAGES, OR TO RISK, FOR A MERE WHIM, A LIFE THAT WAS PRECIOUS TO A OTHER. YOU ALONE, RALPH RENWICK WERE WITH HIM; YOU ALONE KNOW HOW AND WHY HE MET HIS DEATH.

RENWICK.

[IMPATIENT AND SOLEMN TONE.] YOU KNOW ALL THAT I KNOW, MADAME. I WAS THE PERSONAL FRIEND OF MY HUSBAND TO SAVE HIM FROM DISGRACE. THE MATTER WAS WITHIN MY TESTIMONY. TWO ENGLISH OFFICERS ACCOMPANIED ME TO THE SCENE OF THE EXECUTION.

MRS. REYNOLDS.

IS THAT THE WAY AN ENGLISHMAN WAS ACCUSED WITHOUT EVERY WORD YOU SPEAK IS A CONTRADICTION OF SOMETHING ELSE.

TERRICK.

[EXCITED.] I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU, MADAME.

MRS. REYNOLDS.

THE I WILL SPEAK PLAINER. I SEE THERE HAS BEEN FOUL PLAY.

[TERRICK TURNS TO SILVER AND SEES SIGN OF GUILT. MRS. REYNOLDS GEAR SCORN TO HIM AND LOOKS STRAIGHT IN HIS EYES.]

I SUSPECT THE MURDER OF YOU. HE HEARD CONFESSED THE OFFENCE FOR WHICH HE SUFFERED, MORE LIKELY YOU WHO COMMITTED IT.

[TERRICK SHUDDERS STILL MORE.]

WHAT! WHAT! HAVE I FOUND YOU OUT? MURDERER! MURDERER!

TERRICK.

HAVE A CARE, MADAME--

MRS. REYNOLDS.

[WITH FORCE] OR YOU WILL MURDER ME TOO, COWARD!

TERRICK.

[GRABS KNIFE WHICH RAYMOND HAD LEFT OPEN ON STAND--HE HAS NOW WORKED HIMSELF UP TO A FRENZY]

YES! TAKE THAT, AND THAT --

[STABBING HER WITH KNIFE, DROPS IT--SHE FALLS WITH A SCREAM. SERVANT WHO HAS FALLEN ASLEEP OUTSIDE HEARING THE SCREAM IS AWAKENED, RUSHES TO C. L. AND ENTERS, TAKES IN SCENE AT A GLANCE AND THROWS UP HANDS.]

TERRICK.

[IN TERRIBLE FRIGHT.] GREAT HEAVENS! WHAT HAVE I DONE!

SERVANT.

MURDERED A POOR INNOCENT, DEFENCELESS WOMAN.

TERRICK.

[QUICKLY.] HUSH, MAN! OR GOD KNOWS I'LL KILL YOU TOO--- COME, YOU LIKE MONEY--YOU LIKE DRINK---TWO THOUSAND POUNDS IS YOURS IF YOU KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.

SERVANT.

WHAT! TWO THOUSAND POUNDS--ACTUALLY TWO THOUSAND POUNDS

REMBICK.

YES, TWO THOUSAND POUNDS, AND THAT WILL PURCHASE RUM FOR A DOZEN MEN- YOU ACCEPT IT?

SERVANT.

[AS IF CONSIDERING BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG.] RUM! TWO THOUSAND POUNDS! OH, MY RUM, MY RUM! I TAKE IT.

REMBICK.

COME, THEN, WE MUST LEAVE HERE. NOT A SOUL MUST KNOW I HAVE RETURNED TO ENGLAND. IS THE CARRIAGE BEYOND?

SERVANT.

IT IS.

REMBICK.

THEN COME QUICK, QUICK! THE SIGHT OF HER - EARLY DRIVES ME MAD. COME, I TELL YOU, COME!

[SHUDDERS AS HE SEES THE DEAD WOMAN, THEN EXEUNT IN A FRENZIED MANNER OFF L. THROUGH GATE, SERVANT FOLLOWING HIM. AS THEY GO, NELLIE AND RAYMOND ENTER FROM R. THROUGH GATE ARM IN ARM CHATTERING PLEASANTLY-- THEY STOP IN GARDEN FOR A FEW MOMENTS.]

RAYMOND.

WILL YOU PROMISE? GIVE ME THE ANSWER--WITH MY FATHER'S CONSENT YOU WILL MARRY ME?

NELLIE.

YES! THERE, I HOPE THAT ENDS IT, YOU TEASE.

RAYMOND.

[KISSING HER.] GOD BLESS YOU, DARLING.

NELLIE.

BUT COME, RAYMOND, I WANT TO SHOW YOU MY LAST PAINTING.

RAYMOND.

YES, I MUST SEE IT, FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO IS DEAR TO MY EYES.

[NELLIE [illegible] O. L. [illegible] PORTAGE, [illegible] TO [illegible]--[illegible] IFE, GIVES A SCREAM AND FAINTS IN FAINT. RAYMOND [illegible] IN-- [illegible] AT NELLIE, THEN AT CORPSE.]

RAYMOND.

[illegible] LEAVES! Y [illegible] FOR MOTHER.

[SETHY ENTERS FROM THROUGH [illegible] AND STANDS DUMFOUNDED.]

RUN, GALE FOR HELP, QUICK! QUICK!

[HE THEN GOES TO NELLIE AND [illegible] HEAD-- SETHY [illegible] OUT OF GATE CRYING "HELP!"-- VILLAGERS, OFFICERS [illegible] WITH EXCLAMATIONS, "WHAT'S THE MATTER" ETC.]

SETHY.

[illegible]!

OFFICER.

[illegible]! A MURDER--BUT [illegible]

[GOES TO CORPSE AND PICKS UP RAYMOND'S KNIFE.]

WHOSE KNIFE IS THIS!

[NELLIE HAS RECOVERED. RAYMOND GOES TO OFFICER AND SCOWLS [illegible].]

RAYMOND.

[illegible]! IT'S MINE!

OFFICER.

YOURS! YOUNG LADY, CAN YOU THROW ANY LIGHT ON THIS TERRIBLE DEED

NELLIE.

[WEAKLY.] I WAS AWAY-- I JUST RETURNED.

OFFICER.

WHO DID YOU ALONE?

NELLIE.

YES, SIR,--THAT IS, [illegible] OF THE TIME [illegible] RAYMOND [illegible] YOU WERE TO ADD.

OFFICER.

[illegible] LEAVE [illegible] TO [illegible]

DOLLIE.

WELL --- SIR --- HE ---

[DROPS HER HEAD IN HAND AGAIN.]

OFFICER.

WELL, [illegible], WE MUST KNOW THE TRUTH.

DOLLIE.

I --- I LEFT HIM HERE--

[REFERRING TO RAYMOND.]

OFFICER.

[TO RAYMOND.] AND THIS IS YOUR KNIFE?

RAYMOND.

IT IS.

OFFICER.

THEN I MUST ARREST YOU----

DOLLIE.

[RUSHES TO RAYMOND.] OH, RAYMOND! RAYMOND! YOU ARE INNOCENT.

RAYMOND.

[illegible] GOD, I SAY I AM INNOCENT.

[DOLLIE CLINGING TO RAYMOND, [illegible] POINTING TO LAMP. PICTURE.]

[illegible]

THE SHAY-LE.

ACT 3.

A C T 3.

:TIME SUPPOSED TO HAVE ELAPSED BETWEEN THIS AND SECOND ACT IS TIME ENOUGH TO HAVE COMPLETED RAYMOND'S TRIAL. TIME: EVENING OF THE CONVICTION.:

S C E N E

:THE HOME OF A NOTED CRIMINAL LAWYER IN LONDON. AN ELEGANTLY FURNISHED DRAWING ROOM; BOOK CASE, CHANDELIER, ETC. ETC. AT RISE, BETSEY DISCOVERED ARRANGING ROOM:

BETSEY.

: SOLUS : OH MY! :STOPS AND SIGHS FOR A MOMENT : WHAT HEAPS OF WORK I DO HERE. MORNING TO NIGHT IT BE NOTHING BUT WORK. ''THE CHAIRS ARE DUSTY'' SAYS MRS. SCRAGGS. ''POST THESE LETTERS'' SAYS MR. SCRAGGS, AND SO I NEVER HAVE A MINUTE. IT WAS BAD THAT MRS. REYNOLDS WAS KILLED, I HAVE SEEN NOTHING BUT TROUBLE AND HARDSHIP SINCE THEN. BUT THERE, I WON'T COMPLAIN, ITS MISS NELLIE THAT HAS IT HARD. OH THE POOR CHILD! HER MOTHER DEAD, HER FATHER IN CHINA, AND HER SWEETHEART, WHO BE A GOOD YOUNG MAN, IN PRISON FOR MURDER. IT NEARLY BREAKS MY HEART TO SEE HOW SHE SUFFERS. I KNOW THE YOUNG MAN BE AS INNOCENT AS I, AND SO I SWORE AT THE TRIAL YESTERDAY, BUT MADE MR. SCRAGGS MAD WHEN I TOLD HIS HONOR THAT NELLIE'S MOTHER HATED THE YOUNG MAN, AND SAID SHE'D PUT HIM OUT OF THE HOUSE. THAT SEEMED TO BE WRONG --- OH WHAT A SCOLDIN' I GOT FROM MR. SCRAGGS. HE BE A MEAN OLD BEAR, SO HE BE -- NO, HE AIN'T EITHER; FOR HE GIVES NELLIE AND ME A HOME, BESIDES HE SAYS HE WILL GET THE YOUNG MAN OUT OF TROUBLE IF IT BE POSSIBLE, AND HE BE A GOOD LAWYER TOO.

: NOISES HEARD WITHOUT AS IF SEVERAL PERSONS HAD ENTERED HALL WAY, BETSEY RESUMES WORK IMMEDIATELY :

SCRAGGS.

: WITHOUT : BETSEY! BETSEY! HERE BETSEY! WHERE ARE YOU? : ENTERING : NEVER I'M THE RIGHT PLACE, EH, BETSEY?

BETSEY.

OH MR SCRAGGS,--- I BEGS ----

SCRAGGS.

HOLD YOUR TONGUE BETSEY, HOLD YOUR TONGUE. DON'T SAY A WORD.---
WHERE IS MRS. SCRAGGS, BETSEY?

BETSEY.

SHE BE IN HER ROOM -- SHALL I CALL HER?

SCRAGGS.

NOT FOR THE WORLD --- I SEE TOO MUCH OF HER ! WHO HAS NOW DISPOSED OF HAT ETC.! DO YOU SUPPOSE BETSEY I'M NOT TIRED, AND PROPOSE STANDING HEREALL EVENING, EH, BETSEY, DO YOU?

BETSEY.

! QUICKLY PLACING CHAIR ! OH NO SIR,-- BUT I WAS JUST THINKING----

SCRAGGS.

THINKING BETSEY? WHAT BUSINESS HAVE YOU TO THINK? WHAT WERE YOU THINKING ABOUT, EH?

BETSEY.

! CONFUSED ! WELL --- SIR--- THAT IS,-- YOU SEE---- I WAS THINKING----

SCRAGGS.

HUM, NO DOUBT. WELL DON'T THINK AGAIN BETSEY. DON'T FOR THE WORLD EVER LET ME CATCH YOU THINKING.

BETSEY.

OH NO SIR, NEVER! ! SLOW TONE !

SCRAGGS.

HOW IS MISS NELLIE--- BETTER?

BETSEY.

SHE BE ABOUT THE SAME, SIR, POOR THING!

SCRAGGS.

! SEMI-ASIDE ! NEVER BETTER, ALWAYS THE SAME. THE POOR GIRL, 'TWILL KILL HER YET----

: SOUNDS HEARD WITHOUT IN SHRILL VOICE :

''BETSEY! BETSEY!'' :

SCRAGGS.

: THROWING UP HANDS AND ROLLING EYES : OH LORD! THERE SHE IS.

MRS. SCRAGGS.

: WITHOUT : I SAY BETSEY! WHERE ARE YOU?

BETSEY.

HERE I BE, MAM : STARTS TO GO :

SCRAGGS.

STOP! BETSEY, STOP! I SAY --- I'AM MASTER HERE--- DON'T BUDGE!

MRS. SCRAGGS.

: STILL WITHOUT : ARE YOU COMING BETSEY?

SCRAGGS.

DON'T ANSWER-- NOT FOR YOUR LIFE-- DO YOU HEAR, YOUR LIFE BETSEY--

BETSEY

: FRIGHTENED : OH LOR', US!

MRS. SCRAGGS.

: ENTERING : OH HERE YOU ARE-- WHY DIDN'T YOU COME WHEN I CALLED? ANOTHER TIME AND I'LL DISCHARGE YOU.

SCRAGGS.

: WALKING UP AND DOWN INPATIENTLY : DISCHARGE HER EH, ELIZABETH, DISCHARGE HER? NEVER!

MRS. SCRAGGS.

: REPROACHFUL TONE : JONATHAN!

SCRAGGS.

I DETAINED BETSEY--- BETSEY MUST ALWAYS ATTEND TO MY WANTS FIRST. BETSEY TELL MISS NELLIE TO COME HERE.

BETSEY

YES SIR. : COURTESING AND EXIT :

MRS. SCRAGGS.

MRS. SCRAGGS.

: WHIMPERING : THAT'S IT. I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY IN MY HOUSE---- OH UNFORTUNATE WOMAN THAT I AM.--

SCRAGGS.

GO IT ELIZABETH! THAT'S IT WHIMPER AWAY. IT'S EITHER A WHIMPER OR A SCOLD.

MRS. SCRAGGS.

OH JONATHAN, YOU CRUEL, CRUEL MAN.

SCRAGGS.

: REPROACHFUL : ELIZABETH! DON'T TALK TO ME BETWEEN YOU AND THE TRIAL, I AM NEARLY DRIVEN WILD,-- ACTUALLY WILD.

MRS. SCRAGGS.

: SUDDENLY RECOVERING : BY THE WAY, HOW IS THE YOUNG MAN?

SCRAGGS.

: SNAPPISHLY : HE'S IN PRISON. : GOING TO DESK :

MRS. SCRAGGS.

I KNEW THAT, BUT HOW GOES THE TRIAL?

SCRAGGS.

: WRITING AT DESK : BAD. DON'T BOTHER ME I'M BUSY.

MRS. SCRAGGS.

IS THERE ANY HOPE?

SCRAGGS.

ELIZABETH, I'M BUSY. I WON'T SAY A WORD : AFTER SHORT PAUSE : NO, THERE'S NO HOPE. THE TRIAL HAS JUST ENDED. HOW COULD THERE BE HOPE WHEN YOU TESTIFIED YOU HAD HEARD THE DECEASED OFTEN, I REPEAT THE WORD OFTEN, REMARK SHE'D TURN HIM OUT OF THE HOUSE, EH? THEN BETSEY HAD HER STORY TO TELL, AND MISS NELLIE HAD TO SAY SHE LEFT HIM ALONE IN THE HOUSE. A BAD CASE ELIZABETH,-- A BAD CASE. THE WOMEN ALWAYS SPOIL A CASE.

MRS. SCRAGGS.

: SYMPATHETIC TONE : THE POOR CHILD MY HEART BLEEDS FOR HER.

SCRAGGS.

LET IT BLEED. THAT DOESN'T DO THE PRISONER ANY GOOD. I THOUGHT THE YOUNG GIRL WOULD HAVE LIED FOR HER LOVER. NO, SHE HAS TO BLUBBER AND TELL THE TRUTH AND WEAKEN THE DEFENCE. I WOULD HAVE CLEARED HIM THEN--- AS IT IS NOW IT LOOKS DUBIOUS,--- ACTUALLY DUBIOUS ELIZABETH.

MRS. SCRAGGS.

BUT THEY HAVEN'T CONVICTED HIM YET,-- YOU WILL SAVE HIM JONATHAN?

SCRAGGS.

SAVE HIM! CAN MY SKILL DO ANYTHING WHEN I HAVE A LOT OF LOSE TONGUED WITNESSES, EH?

MRS. SCRUGGS.

IT WILL KILL HER ; NELLIE HEARD WITHOUT ; HUSH! HERE SHE COMES, DO GIVE HER HOPE JONATHAN, DON'T KILL HER.

;SCRAGGS GOES TOWARDS D. AND MEETS NELLIE WHO ENTERS LOOKING PALE AND HAGGARD AS IF SHE HAD UNDERGONE A SPELL OF SICKNESS ;

NELLIE.

; REACHING OUT HER HANDS ; OH MR SCRAGGS, I AM SO GLAD TO SEE YOU-- HOW IS HE? TELL ME.

SCRAGGS.

; ASIDE TENDERLY ; POOR GIRL ! ; TO NELLIE ; COME MY CHILD SIT DOWN. YOU ARE TOO WEAK TO STAND. ; TAKES HER TO SEAT ;

NELLIE.

; IMPATIENTLY ; WELL GO ON, TELL ME--- MY POOR RAYMOND!

SCRAGGS.

HE'S WELL AS CAN BE EXPECTED. I SAW HIM JUST BEFORE I LEFT THE COURT HE TOLD ME TO TELL YOU TO HAVE COURAGE, YES, COURAGE MY DEAR GIRL, COURAGE! ; IN KIND SYMPATHETIC TONE ;

NELLIE.

BUT TELL ME, HAS THE TRIAL ENDED?

SCRAGGS.

NOT A HALF HOUR AGO. THE JURY HAVE RETIRED. I LEFT TO GET A LITTLE

REST. MY CLERKS ARE THERE, AND WE SHALL KNOW IMMEDIATELY THEY BRING IN A VERDICT --

NELLIE.

AND YOU THINK THEY WILL SAVE HIM? YES? YES ?

SCRAGGS.

: FROWNING ASIDE : WHAT LITTLE HOPE HAVE I TO GIVE HER.-- : TO NELLIE: YES, MY DEAR,-- THAT IS,- WE MUST HOPE FOR THE BEST.

NELLIE.

BUT WE MUST SAVE HIM! YOU WILL SAVE HIM? : THROWING HER ARMS ROUND HIS NECK IN IMPLORING MANNER.:

SCRAGGS.

THERE, MY DEAR, CALM YOURSELF. ALL MAY NOT BE SO BAD. IF EVERYTHING FAILS, I STILL HAVE ONE HOPE.

NELLIE.

: QUICKLY : WHAT IS IT? SPEAK! TELL ME! DON'T KEEP ME IN SUSPENSE!

SCRAGGS.

CALM YOURSELF DEAR. I WILL TELL YOU. THE FATHER IN CHINA--- HE MAY RETURN--- HIS MONEY--- HIS INFLUENCE,--- IN SHORT, THERE'S HOPE IN THAT QUARTER.

NELLIE.

: BRIGHTNING A LITTLE : YES; HE'LL SAVE HIM : STOPPING SHORT : BUT THEN HE'S IN CHINA,-- : SADLY : AND--- AND CHINA IS SO FAR AWAY.

SCRAGGS.

THE EXECUTION CAN BE STAID.

NELLIE.

: RISING : WHAT EXECUTION!----- OH, THEY'L EXECUTE HIM----THEY WILL MURDER MY POOR RAYMOND! IT WILL KILL ME,-- KILL ME! : GOING OFF INTO SEMI HYSTERICAL CRY.:

MRS. SCRAGGS.

I KNEW YOU WOULD DO IT ---- THE POOR CHILD : GOING TO NELLIE :

SCRAGGS

HOLD YOUR TONGUE, ELIZABETH, : RAISING NELLIE'S HEAD : THERE DEAR, BE CALM-- QUIET YOURSELF ---- I DIDN'T MEAN THE EXECUTION----

NELLIE

: RECOVERING IN SEMI-FRANTIC MANNER : THANK HEAVEN! OH, MERCIFUL GOD, SAVE HIM! HE IS INNOCENT, SAVE HIM!

SCRAGGS.

THIS WILL NEVER DO. : ASIDE : ELIZABETH, TAKE HER AWAY.

MRS. SCRAGGS.

YES, COME, NELLIE, MY DEAR-- YOU NEED REST AND QUIET.

NELLIE.

OH DON'T TAKE ME AWAY, LET ME REMAIN HERE THAT I MAY HEAR THE FIRST WORD OF NEWS, I HAVE A STRONG HEART-- I CAN BEAR TO HEAR THE WORST.

SCRAGGS.

AH, MY POOR GIRL, YOU MUST REST AWHILE, BESIDES IT MAY BE HOURS BEFORE WE HEAR A WORD. GO, AND I PROMISE TO SUMMON YOU AS SOON AS WE HEAR ANYTHING : ASIDE : HEAVEN FORGIVE ME FOR LYING.

MRS. SCRAGGS.

YES, COME DEAR : HEADING HER TOWARDS D. :

NELLIE.

THANK YOU,— OH YOU ARE ALL SO KIND, THE FIRST NEWS CALL ME, THATS A DEAR OLD MAN : KISSES HIM ABD EXITS WITH MRS. SCRAGGS :

: SCRAGGS.

: GOING TO FIRE PLACE AND STANDING : AH, THE POOR GIRL! IT NEARLY BREAKS MY TOUGH OLD HEART TO SEE HER SUFFER SO. : SEMI-CRYING-- MUCH MOVED: IT WILL KILL ME IF HE CAN'T BE CLEARED. WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME? THIS WILL NEVER DO, BEAR UP SCRAGGS, BEAR UP. : GOES TO DESK AND RINGS BELL : IT'S A CLEAR CASE OF CONDEMNING AN INNOCENT MAN ON CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE. HANG THE LAW-- HANG THE JUDGE AND THE JURY; AND WHAT AN OLD FOOL I AM THAT I CAN'T SAVE HIM. : DETSEY ENTERS. :

SCRAGGS.

SCRAGGS.

BETSEY, HAS MY CLERK ARRIVED YET?

BETSEY.

NO SIR.

SCRAGGS.

THEN BETSEY YOU WAIT IN THE HALL 'TILL YOU HEAR HIM AND LET HIM IN AT ONCE, EH, AT ONCE BETSEY. THERE BETSEY IS A HALF CROWN FOR YOU , : HANDING HER MONEY :

BETSEY.

OH THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

SCRAGGS.

EH, BETSEY, DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO NEVER THANK ME-- THERE NOW GO-- MIND! NEVER THANK ME FOR ANYTHING.

BETSEY.

THAT I WON'T MR. SCRAGGS,-- BUT, THEN I'M SO MUCH OBLIGED.---

SCRAGGS.

GET OUT! : RUSHES TOWARDS HER-- SHE EXITS QUICKLY :

SCRAGGS.

: SITS AT DESK COMMENCES TO WRITE : IF EVER THERE WAS A POOR GIRL IN TROUBLE ITS THIS ONE. THEY WILL KILL THEM BOTH, AND KILL ME. I'VE SEEN SUFFERING AS A CRIMINAL LAWYER; BUT THIS IS THE WORST CASE, AND NOT THE LEAST CLUE TO THE REAL ASSASIN. THE VILLAIN WHO KILLED THE MOTHER WILL KILL THE POOR GIRL AND LOVER TOO. SCRAGGS, YOU ARE A STUPID OLD FOOL TO NOT FERRET OUT THE REAL MURDERER. YOU, WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED A SLY OLD FOX TO LET AN INNOCENT MAN DIE : BELL HEARD : AH! THE BELL-- HAVE THEY BROUGHT IN A VERDICT SO QUICK, CONVICTION AS SURE AS FATE.-- DAMN IT!

BETSEY.

: ENTERING : OH MR SCRAGGS THERE BE TWO AT THE DOOR, WHICH SHALL I LET IN?

SCRAGGS.

DAMN IT! BOTH OF THEM-- HURRY! : BETSEY EXITS QUICKLY : TWO OF THEM EH? --- IT ALWAYS TAKES TWO OF MY CLERKS TO DO ANYTHING.

: ENTER SCRAGGS CLERK, AND RENWICK'S SERVANT AFTER HIM.:

SCRAGGS.

WELL, OLIVER?

OLIVER.

: LOUD TONE : THEY HAVE -----

: SCRAGGS RUSHES TO HIM AND SLAPS HAND OVER MOUTH--- YOUNG MAN FRIGHTENED.:

SCRAGGS.

DAMN IT, MAN, DO YOU WISH TO ROUSE THE HOUSE. SPEAK IN WHISPERS. WHAT HAVE THEY DONE,--- GUILTY, EH?

: NELLIE SEEN AT D. AS IF SHE HAD STEALTHILY APPROACHED IT-- LISTENING. SHE ENTERS D. JUST AS CLERK SAYS.:

OLIVER.

GUILTY!

: NELLIE GIVES SCREAM AND FALLS IN FAINT. SCRAGGS RUNS TO HER. RENWICK'S SERVANT SEES HER AND SEEMS TO PITY HER.:

SCRAGGS.

MY GOD! THEY HAVE KILLED HER.

SERVANT.

: WHO APPROACHES AND LEANS OVER HER : NO, NOT QUITE. SEE! SHE BREATHES.

SCRAGGS.

YES, SOME WATER, QUICK SOME WATER.

SERVANT.

: GETS WATER FROM TABLE -- ASIDE : RALPH RENWICK YOU WILL KILL HER TOO.

SCRAGGS.

HAND IT HERE QUICK.

: TAKES WATER AND SPRINKLES FACE. SHE REVIVES A LITTLE. THEY CARRY HER TO LOUNGE GENTLY. :

SHE MUST BE QUIET. COME, GIVE HER AIR. SHE WILL BE ALL RIGHT IN A MOMENT. IT WAS A SAD BLOW. : SEEING RENWICK'S SERVANT :
WELL MY MAN, HOW DID YOU GET HERE-- WHAT DO YOU WANT?

SERVANT.

A MESSAGE IF YOU PLEASE, SIR, FROM MR. RALPH RENWICK : HANDING HIM NOTE :

SCRAGGS.

RALPH RENWICK! WHAT! HE HERE IN LONDON?

: TEARING SEAL OF LETTER HASTILY AND NERVOUSLY. :

SERVANT.

ARRIVED THIS MORNING : ASIDE : A LIE, BUT THAT'S NOT UNCOMMON FOR ME : ENTERS BETSEY :

SCRAGGS.

: HIGH GLEE : WER'E SAVED! SEE, BETSEY, WE ARE SAVED! : READING :
" I HAVE JUST ARRIVED IN LONDON FROM CHINA. MY GRIEF AND SURPRISE UPON HEARING THE SAD NEWS OF MY SON.S MISFORTUNE, BIDS ME TO SUMMON YOU IMMEDIATELY, AS A FRIEND AND HIS COUNSEL. HOPING YOU WILL NOT DELAY A MOMENT, I AM SINCERELY YOURS, RALPH RENWICK, NUMBER 15 THE ALBANY." : HIGH GLEE : OH, BETSEY, EH? WE'LL SAVE THE YOUNG MAN YET. : GIVES BETSEY A HUG IN HIS JOY :

BETSEY.

: SURPRISED : OH MR. SCRAGGS!

SCRAGGS.

: ENTHUSIASTIC : COME BETSEY! GET MY HAT,-- YES BETSEY MY HAT, AND HERE OLIVER, YOU LAZY DOG, DON'T STAND THERE LIKE AN EGYPTIAN MUMMY. RUN! ORDER A CAB, AND MIND, AND TELL THEM ALL THEY GET IS A SHILLING AND SIXPENCE. : TO RENWICK'S SERVANT : AND YOU! TELL YOUR MASTER I WILL BE THERE AT ONCE.

: SERVANT EXITS :

: OLIVER AND BETSEY START AT THESE ORDERS OLIVER EXITS-- BETSEY GETS HAT, COAT, ETC. JAMS HAT OVER HIS EYES IN HURRY AND EXCITEMENT. GENERAL SCENE OF CONFUSION IN GETTING COAT ON WRONG ETC. WHICH CAN BE MADE LAUGHABLE. DURING THIS NELLIE REVIVES, AND SITS UP ON SOFA. :

NELLIE.

: DESPARINGLY : GUILTY! GUILTY! AND THEY WILL KILL MY POOR RAYMOND!

SCRAGGS.

NO! NO! COME CHEER UP! WE'RE SAVED! LOOK! LOOK! : HANDING HER RENWICK'S NOTE :

NELLIE.

: MECHANICALLY TAKING NOTE. IN DOUBTFUL TONE : WE ARE SAVED? BUT HOW?

SCRAGGS.

READ!---- I SEE YOU CAN'T ---- I WILL. RALPH RENWICK HAS RETURNED.--

NELLIE

: BRIGHTENING A LITTLE : AND PAPA TOO?

SCRAGGS.

IT DOESN'T SAY.

NELLIE.

WHY OF COURSE HE HAS---- AND WE'LL SAVE RAYMOND!

SCRAGGS

YES! BUT THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO SPARE. I MUST SEE THE FATHER AT ONCE. : ENTER OLIVER. :

OLIVER.

THE CAB IS OUTSIDE.

SCRAGGS.

: GOING TO NELLIE GOOD BYE MY DEAR GIRL-- CHEER UP!

NELLIE.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

SCRAGGS.

TO RENWICK'S. DON'T YOU SEE THE NOTE SAYS COME AT ONCE.

NELLIE.

BUT AM I NOT GOING TOO --- CAN'T I SEE PAPA?

SCRAGGS.

NO! IT'S ENTIRELY OUT OF THE QUESTION. YOU ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH.

NELLIE.

YES I AM. OH, DO LET ME GO.

: THROWING ARMS AROUND HIM IN PLEADING VOICE :

PLEASE DO,-- I WANT SO MUCH TO SEE PAPA AND COMFORT HIM, FOR THE NEWS OF MAMMA'S DEATH WILL BE A TERRIBLE BLOW. : KISSES HIM : THERE'S A GOOD OLD MAN -- DO LET ME GO.

SCRAGGS.

: ASIDE : OH LORD!--- : TO NELLIE : DO YOU FEEL STRONG ENOUGH?

NELLIE.

OH YES! BETSEY GET MY SHAWL AND HAT.

SCRAGGS

COME, HURRY. THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO SPARE. IT'S A MATTER OF SAVING A LIFE. RALPH RENWICK'S INFLUENCE AND MONEY , SHALL SAVE HIS SON-- YOUR LOVER.

NELLIE.

HEAVEN BE PRAISED! HE SHALL NOT DIE -- OH YOU ARE SO KIND AND GOOD MR SCRAGGS.

: BETSEY PUTTING HAT AND SHAWL ON NELLIE :

SCRAGGS

HURRY! TIME IS PRECIOUS.

: ELIZABETH ENTERS AND WONDERS AT THE CONFUSION. SCRAGGS SEES HER AND IN HIS GOOD HUMOR EMBRACES HER AND IMPRINTS A KISS

SCRAGGS.

THERE, ELIZABETH, DON'T SAY AGAIN I NEVER KISSED YOU.

MRS. SCRAGGS.

OH, JONATHAN! :WIPING KISS OFF: YOU HORRID MAN-----BUT WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

NELLIE.

:WITH FORCE: TO SAVE MY POOR, DEAR RAYMOND.

P I-C T U R E- C U R T A I N.

THE SHAY-LE.

ACT 4.

A C T 4.

S C E N E:

RALPH RENWICK'S APARTMENTS IN THE ALBANY (LONDON). A SORT OF OFFICE,--ELEGANTLY FURNISHED, WITH A SLEEPING APARTMENT SUPPOSED TO BE OFF R.)

TIME: SAME EVENING OF THE LAST ACT, AN HOUR LATER. AT RISE, SERVANT ENTERS SUPPOSED TO HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM HIS ERRAND TO LAWYER SCRAGGS. AT RISE EMPTY STAGE---ENTER SERVANT.)

SERVANT.

(SEMI DEJECTED--SOLUS.) AH, RALPH RENWICK, YOU ARE A VILLIAN. WHAT AM I? BUT IT'S YOU THAT HAVE DONE IT ALL; YOU THAT BROUGHT ME TO THIS DEGRADATION. I WAS ONCE PROSPEROUS AND HONORABLE---BUT DRINK! DRINK! NOW I'M HIS TOOL--HE DOES WITH ME AS HE LIKES; BUT I'M NEARLY GIVEN OUT. I HATE HIM! HATE MYSELF-- HATE EVERYTHING, - BUT YOU, (TAKING BOTTLE FROM POCKET). YES, EVERYTHING BUT YOU, MY DARLING. (ADMIRING BOTTLE.) IF I TELL ALL, THEY WILL ROB ME OF YOU. (SORT OF DELIRIUM) NO! NO! THEY SHAN'T STEAL YOU FROM ME, NO, NEVER! (DRINKS.) I THOUGHT IT WOULD TEAR MY HEART OUT TO SEE HER LYING THERE PALE AS DEATH, WHEN IT LAY IN MY HANDS TO SAVE HER. GREGORY, YOU HAD A HEART ONCE, YOU WERE HONORABLE, WHY SHOULDN'T YOU BE NOW? BUT MY RUM! MY RUM! NOT A SHILLING IN THE WORLD. WITH HIM I HAVE PLENTY. IF --- I --- DENOUNCE HIM --- (STRUGGLES) NO! MY RUM! MY DARLING, WE'LL NEVER PART.

(HUGGING AND KISSING BOTTLE AS RENWICK ENTERS FROM R.)

RENWICK.

WELL, YOU OLD DRUNKEN SOT, DRINKING AGAIN, EH?

(GOING TO DESK L. AND WRITING.)

SERVANT.

AYE, DRINKING AGAIN.

RENWICK.

[WRITING] SO THEY HAVE CONVICTED HIM?

SERVANT.

YES!

RENWICK.

[ASIDE] SO MUCH THE BETTER-- CURSE HIM! BUT I MUST MAKE A SHOW OF GRIEF --- [TO SERVANT] YOU DELIVERED THE LETTER?

SERVANT.

I DID. [HALF ASIDE] MAY IT BE THE LAST.

RENWICK.

[OVERHEARING HIM.] WHAT'S THAT? EH! DRINKING AGAIN?

SERVANT.

AYE, GRUMBLING AGAIN. I HAVE ENOUGH TO GRUMBLE ABOUT. RALPH RENWICK, I'M TIRED OF BEING AN ACCOMPLICE TO AN ASSASS----

RENWICK.

[JUMPING UP QUICKLY AND IN QUICK VOICE.] WHAT'S THAT?

SERVANT.

I SAID I WAS TIRED OF BEING AN ACCOMPLICE TO AN ASSASSIN, A MURDERER ---

RENWICK.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO ABOUT IT, YOU SNEAKING RASCAL-- DENOUNCE ME? NEVER! [GRASPING HIM.] I WOULD SHAKE YOUR LIVER OUT FIRST. [BECOMING CALMER] AND THIS IS THE WAY I AM PAID FOR ALL I HAVE DONE FOR YOU, YOU STARVING WRETCH!

SERVANT.

YOU HAD BETTER KILLED ME WHEN I FIRST CAME HERE; FOR THEN I WAS HONORABLE, I WAS HONEST. BUT, GOD KNOWS, FAR FROM THAT NOW. WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR ME? MADE ME MAD WITH DRINK, POISONED MY BRAIN AYE, THAT'S WHAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR ME. AND NOW YOU ARE KILLING A POOR GIRL, NOT CONTENT WITH MURDERING HER POOR MOTHER. RALPH

RENWICK, IT TAKES A BASER MAN THAN I TO SEE IT.

RENWICK.

MAN, YOU ARE DRUNK-- YOU ARE MAD-- YOU KNOW NOT WHAT YOU SAY.

SERVANT.

I KNOW I AM MAD. YOU HAVE MADE ME SO. STILL THERE REMAINS A LITTLE SPARK OF HONOR AND PITY IN THIS OLD SHATTERED FRAME.

RENWICK.

AND THIS IS WHAT YOU CALL HONOR. AFTER LIVING WITH ME TWENTY YEARS AND THEN DENOUNCE THE MAN THAT HAS FED YOU FOR ALL THAT TIME. BUT LOOK A MOMENT, YOU DON'T CONSIDER ONE THING.

SERVANT.

WHAT'S THAT?

RENWICK.

YOU DARE NOT DO THIS THING.

SERVANT.

I DARE TO DO ANYTHING. YOU SAY I AM MAD. A MAD MAN FEARS NOTHING

RENWICK.

BUT WHAT WOULD BECOME OF YOU, EH? YOU FORGET THAT THE LAW WOULD RECOGNIZE YOU AS MY ACCOMPLICE; THAT YOU HAVE BEEN AN ACCESSORY TO THE FACT; HENCE AS GUILTY AS I AM.

[SERVANT BEGINS TO GIVE IN AND SHOWS SIGN OF FRIGHT]

THAT WE ARE BOTH EQUALLY GUILTY.

SERVANT.

[MORE SUBMISSIVE] TRUE, SIR.

RENWICK.

YOU DO THIS THING, AND YOU LOSE YOUR OWN LIFE, BESIDES A MASTER WHO IS WILLING TO BE STILL MORE LIBERAL THAN HERETOFORE. BE A MAN HONORABLE WITH YOUR EMPLOYER, AND YOUR SALARY IS RAISED +200 THIS DAY.

SERVANT.

[BRIGHTENING] TWO HUNDRED POUNDS! --- ACTUALLY TWO HUNDRED POUNDS?

RENWICK.

I SAID TWO HUNDRED POUNDS. NOW, LOOK HERE, MY MAN, YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO DO WITHOUT ME. I VALUE YOUR SERVICES. TWO HUNDRED POUNDS IS A GOOD DEAL OF MONEY.

SERVANT.

:TO HIMSELF.: TWO HUNDRED POUNDS! WHY IT WOULD BUY DRINK FOR LIFE--- I CAN'T WITHSTAND IT. I'M A MISERABLE SINNER.

RENWICK.

WELL, YOU ACCEPT?

SERVANT.

I DO. RUM! TWO HUNDRED POUNDS! I ACCEPT, I ACCEPT.

RENWICK.

WHO HAS RETURNED TO DESK AND IS WRITING.: WELL THEN, MY FRIEND, HERE IS HALF YOUR PAY IN ADVANCE. :HANDING HIM CHECK: NOW THEN, I WILL EXCUSE YOU. MIND! A FAITHFUL EMPLOYE NEVER LOSES ANYTHING.

SERVANT.

:TOTTERING TO D. R.: AYE, SIR.

:LOOKING AT CHECK AND SMILING WITH GREED:

TWO HUNDRED POUNDS! TWO HUNDRED POUNDS!

:EXITS D. R.:

RENWICK.

THERE! I HAVE SETTLED HIM. HOW I DO HATE A CHICKEN HEARTED MAN. BUT I NEED FEAR NOTHING MORE FROM HIM. HE'LL BE DRUNK ENOUGH IN AN HOUR. NOW, TO OTHER MATTERS. I'VE BEEN SECRETED IN THIS PLACE THREE MONTHS, ONLY GETTING A LITTLE FRESH AIR AT NIGHT WHEN I COULD STEAL FORTH UNOBSERVED. RAYMOND CONDEMNED! WHAT AN UNLUCKY DOG! I MUST NEED COURAGE TO MEET HIS COUNSEL.

:RISES, GOES TO SIDEBOARD TAKES GLASS BRANDY AND TAKES IT IN ONE SWALLOW.:

THERE, THAT WILL NERVE ME. NOW LET ME COLLECT MY THOUGHTS. THAT SCOUNDREL GREGORY HAS MADE ME NERVOUS. :THINKING.: FIRST, I'LL HAVE TO SEEM EXCEEDINGLY GRIEVED, AND WILLING TO DO ANYTHING TO SAVE HIM-- BUT WHAT CAN I DO? :CHUCKLES TO HIMSELF: HA! HA! OFFER TO FURNISH MONEY, MY INFLUENCE; BUT WHAT WILL THAT AVAIL? WHY SHOULD I DESIRE TO SAVE HIM--- :LOOKS ROUND CAUTIOUSLY: HE'S NOT MY SON; YET TO THE EYES OF THE WORLD HE IS. THAT WAS A LUCKY

STROKE, RENWICK, WHEN YOU FORGED HIS MOTHER'S WILL, AND CONVERTED HER VAST FORTUNE TO YOURSELF. HE WAS YOUNG THEN. WOULD THAT HE HAD DIED. NO! HE MUST LIVE, AND THIS IS WHAT HE HAS BROUGHT ON HIMSELF. I NEVER LOVED HIM; NOR DID I LOVE THE MOTHER. SHE WAS A FOOL TO MARRY ME; FOR WHAT WAS I THEN BUT A POOR ADVENTURER. BUT SHE HAD MONEY--A WIDOW WHOSE HUSBAND LEFT HER THOUSANDS, AND AN ONLY SON. I MARRIED THE WOMAN, AND GOT HER MONEY. BY THE WAY, WHERE CAN THAT WILL BE? ;LOOKING AMONG PAPERS IN DRAWERS OF DESK; I HAVE LOOKED FOR IT EVERY PLACE. WHAT A FOOL I WAS NOT TO HAVE DESTROYED IT-- PSHA! IT IS HIDDEN AWAY IN SOME SAFE PLACE. NO ONE WILL EVER SEE IT, BESIDES IT WAS TWENTY YEARS AGO. THERE'S ANOTHER DISAGREEABLE TASK TO PERFORM. NELLIE REYNOLDS MUST BE TOLD OF HER FATHER'S DEATH; THAT MUST BE EXPLAINED AGAIN; BUT THANK HEAVEN, NOT TO HER. SCRAGGS SHALL TELL HER. WILL HE SUSPECT ANYTHING? HE IS A SLY OLD FOX. SO AM I. WE'LL SEE.

;RINGS BELL.;

SERVANT.

;ENTERS. DID YOU RING, SIR?

RENWICK.

YES; HE WILL BE HERE IN A MOMENT, BE IN READINESS TO SHOW HIM IN.

SERVANT.

YES, SIR. ;EXITS L. U. E.;

RENWICK.

RISES, GOES UP STAGE, BRINGS DOWN TWO HEAVY BLACK PACKING CASES; THERE! IT MUST APPEAR THAT I'VE JUST RETURNED. LISTEN! SOME ONE IS COMING. I MUST MAKE A GOOD APPEARANCE.

;GOES TO DESK SITS DOWN BURIES HIS HEAD IN HANDS AS IF IN GRIEF AS SCRAGGS ENTERS WITH NELLIE ON HIS ARM PRECEDED BY SERVANT NELLIE TAKES A BACK SEAT, SCRAGGS COMES DOWN. RENWICK REMAINS WITH HEAD BURIED IN HANDS TILL SCRAGGS APPROACHES, THEN SPRINGS UP. THEY ARE PRETTY WELL DOWN AND IN SUCH A MANNER THAT NELLIE IS UNSEEN. SERVANT EXITS D. R.;

RENWICK.

MY DEAR FRIEND, I AM GLAD YOU HAVE COME. I HAVE BEEN MISERABLE SINCE MY RETURN. ;AFFECTING DISTRESS.;

SCRAGGS.

NOT MORE SO THAN MYSELF.

RENWICK.

I ARRIVED BUT A FEW HOURS AGO, TIRED AND WORN OUT WITH THE JOURNEY—AND MY SON, OH, MY SON!

SCRAGGS.

CONVICTED, ACTUALLY CONVICTED, AND WILL BE EXECUTED.

RENWICK.

CAN NOTHING SAVE HIM? DO GIVE ME HOPE. THE GRIEF WILL KILL ME.

SCRAGGS.

THERE IS HOPE. MONEY! SIR, MONEY! INFLUENCE! A NEW TRIAL, EH? [BRIGHTENING.]

RENWICK.

CAN IT BE DONE?

SCRAGGS.

IT DEPENDS UPON YOU. THE ONLY CHANCE I SEE IS A STAY OF PROCEEDINGS. IT WILL GIVE THE DETECTIVES TIME. THE REAL ASSASSIN, THE TRAITOR MAY BE DISCOVERED--

RENWICK.

[COOLLY] BUT THERE ARE NO CLUES. FROM WHAT I HAVE HEARD, THE EVIDENCE IS CONCLUSIVE AGAINST MY SON.

SCRAGGS.

TRUE; BUT MURDER WILL OUT.

RENWICK.

[ASIDE] CAN HE SUSPECT ANYTHING? WHAT IS HE AFTER? [ALOUD] TRUE, SIR; BUT COME, THIS SAD BLOW AND THE FATIGUE OF THE JOURNEY HAS NEAR PROSTRATED ME. I WILL CALL AT YOUR OFFICE IN THE MORNING PREPARED TO DO WHAT'S IN MY POWER TO SAVE HIM. HOWEVER BEFORE LEAVING I HAVE ANOTHER MATTER, A VERY UNPLEASANT MATTER TO COMMUNICATE TO YOU.

SCRAGGS.

EH?

[SERVANT IS SEEN TO ENTER FROM D. R. AND STAND BEHIND A BOOK CASE OR DESK SEEN BY AUDIENCE BUT UNSEEN BY THOSE ON STAGE.]

RENWICK.

CONCERNING REYNOLDS.

NELLIE.

[RISING--ASIDE.] MY DEAR PAPA-- HE IS HERE.
[LEANING FORWARD WITH ONE HAND ON CHAIR, AS IF TO CATCH EVERY WORD.]

SCRAGGS.

REYNOLDS-- HE HERE? HE WILL BE A COMFORT TO HIS DAUGHTER, THE POOR CHILD!

RENWICK.

ALAS, NEVER! LISTEN! ONE DAY WHILE WE WERE VISITING A CHINESE TEMPLE ON A FEAST DAY, HE, OUT OF A JOKE, STOLE THE WONDERFUL SHAY-LE, A CHINESE IDOL, FROM THE TEMPLE. HE WAS ARRESTED, AND IN LESS THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS SUFFERED THE MOST HORRIBLE DEATH AT THE HANDS OF THE BARBARIANS.

[DURING THIS SPEECH NELLIE IS LISTENING DUMBFOUNDED AND TOTTERING AND FALLS IN FAINT, GIVING A WEAK SCREAM. RENWICK AND SCRAGGS RUSH TO HER.]

RENWICK.

WHAT! WHO IS SHE! HOW DID SHE GET HERE?

SCRAGGS.

[RAISING HER HEAD.] IT WILL KILL HER, IT WILL KILL HER. THEY HAVE MURDERED REYNOLDS AND WILL KILL HIS DAUGHTER.

RENWICK.

[TREMBLING--ASIDE] HIS DAUGHTER! [ALOUD --COMPOSING HIMSELF.] HAD I KNOWN SHE WAS HERE, I WOULD HAVE SPARED HER THE BLOW.

NELLIE.

[HALF RECOVERED.] [SOBBING.] MY POOR, POOR FATHER! HE IS MURDERED TOO-- OH, HORRIBLE ----

SCRAGGS.

NO! DEAR, NO! IT'S A MISTAKE --- YOU MISUNDERSTOOD. :ASIDE TO RENWICK: TELL HER IT WASN'T REYNOLDS.

NELLIE.

HEAVEN BE MERCIFUL. LET ME DIE. ALL IS OVER.

:SERVANT IS VERY MUCH AFFECTED, TAKES CHECK OUT OF HIS POCKET. AS SCRAGGS AND RENWICK ARE TRYING TO COMFORT HER HE SPEAKS ASIDE:

SERVANT.

:ASIDE: I CAN'T STAND IT. I'LL BE A MAN FOR ONCE.

SCRAGGS.

THIS IS A TERRIBLE BLOW. I WAS A FOOL TO BRING HER HERE IN HER WEAK CONDITION. :NELLIE HAS BECOME QUIET AND GOES OFF IN STUPOR: THERE, SHE IS QUIET. LET HER REST. AND THEY KILLED CHARLIE REYNOLDS-- I COULD HARDLY SUSPECT HIM GUILTY OF THE FOLLY HE COMMITTED.

RENWICK.

IT WAS BEYOND MY COMPREHENSION. HE MUST HAVE DONE IT IN A FIT OF ABERRATION.

NELLIE.

:RECOVERING AGAIN-- RISES, BECOMES FRANTIC-- RUSHES TO RENWICK.: 'TIS A FALSEHOOD! HE NEVER DID IT, I TELL YOU, 'TIS FALSE!

RENWICK.

:COOL, COLLECTED MANNER.: ALAS, SHE'S DELIRIOUS-- MAD!

NELLIE.

MAD!

SCRAGGS.

YES, MAD-- THE LAST BLOW WAS TOO MUCH. HER MIND IS AFFECTED. WE MUST TAKE HER FROM HERE AT ONCE.

:GOES TO NELLIE,-- SERVANT AS IF SUDDENLY RESOLVED TEARS CHECK THROWS IT TO THE GROUND, RUSHES OUT IN FRANTIC MANNER.:

THE SHAY-LE.

ACT 5.

A C T 5.

:TIME SUPPOSED TO HAVE ELAPSED BETWEEN LAST ACT AND THIS, IS SEVERAL MONTHS.:

S C E N E:

ENGLISH PRISON, SIMILAR TO PRISON SCENE IN "ROSE MICHEL" AT BACK IS SEEN CITY LIGHTED UP. SENTRY WALKING UP AND DOWN AT WALL BACK. AT RISE, THE MOON IS JUST RISING, AS ACT PROGRESSES TO SCENE WHERE RENWICK IS DENOUNCED, THE MOON IS AT FULL HEIGHTH, MAKING STAGE LIGHTER. TIME: EVENING BEFORE RAYMOND'S EXECUTION.

: AT RISE, RAYMOND IS SITTING IN CELL, IN A FIT OF DESPAIR. LOOKS PALE AND HAGGARD.:

RAYMOND.

: SOLUS : THERE'S NOT A HOPE. TO-MORROW MORNING THEY WILL KILL ME, AN INNOCENT MAN; YES, THEY WILL MURDER ME. OH MERCY! MERCY! CAN NOTHING SAVE ME? HEAVEN HELP ME IN MY DESPAIR. I CALL ON YOU TO INTERCEDE -- TELL THEM ALL I AM INNOCENT, THAT I DIDN'T KILL NELLIE'S MOTHER : ANGUISH AND DESPAIR : I BESEECH YOU TO TELL THEM! AND NELLIE, MY DEAR NELLIE, HOW CAN I DIE AND LEAVE YOU, YOU SO YOUNG, SO BEAUTIFUL, ALONE IN THE WORLD,, YES, ALONE! ALONE!

: DURYING HIS HEAD AND SOBBING. TURNKEY ENTERS FROM L. U. E. COMES DOWN AND UNLOCKS CELL D. AND ENTERS.:

TURNKEY.

A MAN BELOW TO SEE YOU, SIR, HAS BEEN THERE THE PAST HOUR.

RAYMOND

A MAN? WHAT NAME?

TURNKEY.

HE REFUSES TO GIVE ANY, SIR. RATHER A POORLY CLAD MAN.

RAYMOND.

SOME POOR WRETCH, WITH A MORBID DESIRE TO SEE ME BEFORE I AM EXECUTED. I CAN'T SEE HIM.

TURNKEY.

IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?

RAYMOND.

NO, THANKS. : TURNKEY EXITS, LOCKING DOOR :

TURNKEY.

: WITHOUT CELL : HE DON'T LOOK LIKE THE GENERAL RUN. : EXITS L.U.E. :

RAYMOND.

I WONDER WHY MY FATHER DOES NOT COME OFTENER-- HE SURELY PITIES ME. SOMETIMES I THINK HE TOO BELIEVES ME GUILTY. WHEN WE ARE ALONE HE SEEMS SO COLD AND DISTANT, AND AT TIMES GREATLY AGITATED. : EXAMINING WATCH : I WONDER WHY THE DON'T COME. KIND OLD SCRAGGS SAID HE'D USE GREAT INFLUENCE, AND THE AUTHORITIES HAD GRANTED THE PRIVILEGE OF ALLOWING MY FRIENDS TO SEE ME AND HE'D BE HERE SURE AT SEVEN, WITH NELLIE. OH, HOW CAN I MEET HER FOR THE LAST TIME, GIVE HER A FAREWELL EMBRACE. IT WILL KILL ME, IT WILL TEAR MY HEART OUT. THE THOUGHTS OF THE SCAFFOLD IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE THOUGHT OF PARTING WITH HER. POOR NELLIE! POOR NELLIE! : RISES AND GOES TO GRATED DOOR R. : SEE YONDER MOON! HOW BEAUTIFUL IT IS! HOW MANY MANY TIMES HAVE WE STROLLED ARM IN ARM BENEATH THY GLORIOUS LIGHT; THEN HOW FOR HOURS, WE'D GAZE ON THY GLORY WITH LIGHT AND GAY HEARTS. NOW, YOU LOOK UPON ME A CONDEMNED MAN; AYE, A MURDERER IN THE EYES OF A CRUEL WORLD. YOUR LIGHT CANNOT CHEER MY HEART AS IT ONCE DID. TO-NIGHT, YOUR RAYS PENETRATE MY DREARY CELL. TO-MORROW, THEY'LL LIGHT MY LONELY GRAVE, YES MY GRAVE.

GOES BACK SORROWFUL AND BURRIES HIS HEAD IN HANDS, AND SOBS. :

: TURNKEY ENTERS FOLLOWED BY RENWICK. TURNKEY GOES TO UPPER CELL R. AND ENTERS WHILE RENWICK COMES DOWN. :

TURNKEY.

IN A MOMENT SIR, AND I'LL LET YOU INTO YOUR SON'S CELL.

RENWICK.

: B : CURSE THIS JOB! I HATE IT! I WILL BE GLAD WHEN ITS OVER. I CAN THEN HAVE SOME PEACE I HOPE. I WILL SEND GREGORY TO THE CONTINENT ON SOME PRETEXT, RIDDING MYSELF OF HIS LOOSE TONGUE. SINCE THAT EVENING HE SO DESPERATELY TRIED TO DENOUNCE ME, I HAVE NOT TRUSTED HIM OUT OF MY SIGHT. HOW MUCH HE WANTED TO COME HERE WITH ME; BUT I WOULD NOT TRUST HIM, HE'S SUCH A WEAK MINDED DOG. THANKS TO A GOOD LOCK AND KEY, HE'S SAFE. : SHAKING KEY :

TURNKEY.

: COMING DOWN : NOW SIR! I BEG YOUR PARDON FOR MY DELAY. : OPENS DOOR RENWICK ENTERS-- SEES RAYMOND, THEY EMBRACE. :

RAYMOND.

FATHER!

RENWICK.

: HYPOCRITICALLY : MY DEAR SON!

RAYMOND.

I WAS BECOMING IMPATIENT AT YOUR DELAY,-- BUT NELLIE, WHERE'S NELLIE WERN'T YOU TO ACCOMPANY MR. SCRAGGS AND NELLIE?

RENWICK.

: ASIDE : THAT GIRL'S NAME ---- : TO RAYMOND : NO, MY DEAR SON, I WAS TOO IMPATIENT TO SEE YOU; BESIDES OLD SCRAGGS INSULTED ME YESTERDAY. HE SAID I WAS A HEARTLESS WRETCH, AND HAD NOT DONE ALL IN MY POWER TO SAVE YOU, WHEN YOU KNOW MY DEAR SON, I'VE NOT SLEPT FOR NIGHTS. : AFFECTING : IT WAS CRUEL IN HIM, MY POOR UNFORTUNATE SON ---- SOMETIMES I THINK THE GRIEF WILL KILL ME.

RAYMOND.

IT WILL KILL NELLIE,-- YES, IT WILL KILL HER. ALL THROUGH MY TRIAL I STOOD LIKE A MAN. I'VE TRIED TO BE CHEERFUL WHEN MY HEART BLED FOR HER, I HAVE ENCOURAGED HER WITH FALSE HOPE; AND NOW, ALAS! THERE'S NO HOPE. TO-MORROW I DIE FOR A CRIME COMMITTED BY ANOTHER. NOT UNTIL NOW HAVE I FELT LIKE CRYING OUT TO HEAVEN. I AM INNOCENT, I

DID NOT KILL HER POOR MOTHER. IT WAS ANOTHER! OH, THAT THE REAL ASSASSIN COULD SEE HIS WORK, HOW HER POOR HEART BLEEDS, HOW THAT FATAL BLOW KILLED THE MOTHER, WILL KILL HER, AND ME.

RENWICK.

: WHO HAS BEEN BITING HIS LIP - FORGETS HIMSELF : ENOUGH! ENOUGH! ENOUGH! I SAY.

RAYMOND.

WHAY FATHER!--- YOU ARE PALE -- WHY SO EXCITED AND NERVOUS?

RENWICK.

: RECOLLECTING HIMSELF : THERE! I SHOULD NOT GIVE WAY TO MY FEELINGS --- BUT MY GRIEF IS TERRIBLE : AFFECTING GRIEF : COME, MY POOR SON, LET'S TALK OF SOMETHING ELSE.

RAYMOND.

ONE THING I BESEECH YOU, THAT AFTER I'M GONE, YOU WILL DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO MAKE HER HAPPY. TREAT HER AS YOUR DAUGHTER -- BE KIND TO HER, GRANT THIS, I PRAY.

RENWICK.

I WILL, LISTEN!--- YOUR FRIENDS---

SCRAGGS.

: WITHOUT : COME ALONG ELIZABETH, : ENTERING WITH NELLIE AND ELIZABETH : DON'T BE HANGING BEHIND LIKE A SNAIL.

ELIZABETH.

OH, JONATHAN.

SCRAGGS.

: TO TURNKEY WHO IS PRECEDING THEM : HOW IS THE YOUNG MAN?

TURNKEY.

HE'S AS COMFORTABLE AS CAN BE EXPECTED.

SCRAGGS.

: TO NELLIE : COME, MY DEAR CHILD, HAVE STRENGTH, COURAGE!

NELLIE.

: WEAK VOICE : YES, COURAGE. : TURNKEY OPENS DOOR :

SCRAGGS.

YOU MUST BE CALM. YOUR LIFE RESTS UPON IT. . AN OVERSHOCK WOULD THROW YOU INTO THE DELIRIUM AGAIN.

NELLIE.

I WILL BE CALM. WHERE IS HE? THE SUSPENSE WILL KILL ME.

SCRAGGS.

: TO TURNKEY : BRING THE PRISONER OUT.

TURNKEY.

: ENTERS TO RAYMOND : COME, SIR, YOUR FRIENDS ARE WAITING IN THE CORRIDOR--

: RAYMOND JUMPS UP QUCIKLY, RUSHES OUT INTO NELLIE'S ARMS. RENWICK GETTING TO D. JUST AS THEY EMBRACE. :

RAYMOND.

OH NELLIE! MY DEAR NELLIE!

NELLIE.

RAYMOND!

: HERE ENSUES A VERY EFFECTIVE SCENE, WHICH BRINGS TEARS TO SCRAGG'S EYES; WHILE RENWICK IS VERY MUCH UNDONE. :

SCRAGGS.

: AFTER A MOMENT : THIS WILL NEVER DO. ELIZABETH GET THEM APART.
: TURNKEY GOES UP AND OFF L. :

ELIZABETH.

MY DEAR CHILDREN, THIS WILL NEVER DO, COME CALM YOURSELVES.

RAYMOND.

: WITH FORCE : HOW CAN I BE CALM! WHAT! WHEN THEY WILL TEAR HER FROM ME -- MURDER ME IN COLD BLOOD FOR A CRIME I NEVER COMMITTED. YOU NELLIE, KNOW I AM INNOCENT, YOU, FATHER, KNOW I AM INNOCENT. BEFORE GOD, I SWEAR I'M NOT GUILTY. THEN HOW CAN I BE CALM WHEN I AM TO DIE FOR A CRIME I NEVER COMMITTED. ON HEAVEN I CALL THIS MOMENT

FOR MERCY. DON'T SUFFER ME TO DIE, POINT OUT THE REAL ASSASSIN. DON'T LET THE INNOCENT SUFFER FOR THE GUILTY.

NELLIE.

OH RAYMOND! RAYMOND! : THROWING HER ARMS ROUND HIS NECK :

RENWICK.

: GOING TO THEM : COME, RAYMOND, QUIET YOURSELF. YOU WILL UNNERVE ME. -- THIS BLOW WILL KILL YOUR POOR FATHER..--

SCRAGGS.

: GRUFFLY : RATHER YOUR GUILTY CONSCIENCE, I AM NOT TRYING TO SAVE YOUR SON. YOUR GREED FOR MONEY, SIR, WILL NEVER ALLOW YOU TO DIE.

RENWICK.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

SCRAGGS.

THAT YOU LIED TO ME WHEN YOU SAID YOU WOULD USE YOUR INFLUENCE AND MONEY TO SAVE YOUR SON.

NELLIE.

: REPROACHFULLY : OH, MR. SCRAGGS!

RAYMOND.

MY GOOD OLD FRIEND, AS MUCH AS I LOVE AND RESPECT YOU, I CANNOT PERMIT THIS.

RENWICK.

: IN TONE AS IF MUCH ABUSED : OH LET HIM GO ON. THE BLOW OF YOUR MISFORTUNE IS NOT ENOUGH -- LET HIM BREAK MY HEART WITH HIS FALSE IMPUTATIONS.

SCRAGGS.

HEART! SIR, I DOUBT THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH A THING IN YOU.

RENWICK.

BECAUSE I HAVE NOT FILLED HIS POCKETS WITH ENORMOUS FEES, AND FURNISHED HIM WITH UNNECESSARY MONEY, HE CALLS THAT HEARTLESSNESS.

SCRAGGS.

IT'S FALSE SIR. THIS OLD GREY HEAD OF MINE WORKS FOR SOMETHING BESIDES A MERCENARY MOTIVE, SIR. THIS OLD HEART OF MINE, SIR BLEEDS FOR THAT YOUNG GIRL YONDER, FOR THAT INNOCENT MAN THERE. IT'S NEARLY BROKEN TOO, THATS WHAT IT IS.

: TURNKEY ENTERS AND INTERRUPTS THEM :

TURNKEY

: TO RAYMOND : THE MAN OF WHOM I SPOKE A WHILE AGO HAS RETURNED. HE WILL NOT LEAVE WITHOUT SEEING YOU. HE SAYS IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE.

RAYMOND.

I CAN'T SEE HIM.

SCRAGGS.

: TO TURNKEY : WHAT'S THAT MY MAN?

TURNKEY :

A MAN BELOW, SIR, INSIST UPON SEEING THE PRISONER. HE'S BEEN THERE TWICE NOW. HE SAYS IT'S VERY IMPORTANT.

SCRAGGS.

IMPORTANT, EH? SHOW HIM IN. IT MAY BE SOME NEW EVIDENCE.

RAYMOND.

OH TO HEAVEN THAT IT WERE. : TURNKEY EXITS :

RENWICK.

: ASIDE : MORE LIKELY SOME CURIOUS IDLER. : TO RAYMOND : MY SON, YOU HAVE JUST HEARD THE BASE CHARGES IMPUTED TO YOUR FATHER — YOU BELIEVE THEM NOT.

RAYMOND.

NO, FATHER, NO.

RENWICK.

TO CONVINCE YOU THAT I AM NOT A MAN THAT HAS A GREED FOR RICHES, I DECLARE HERE BEFORE YOU ALL, THAT THE POOR YOUNG GIRL THERE, SHALL NEVER SUFFER. FOR THE LOVE SHE BEARS MY SON, SHE SHALL BE WELL TAKEN CARE OF.

RAYMOND.

GOD BLESS YOU FATHER. I AM SO SORRY THAT ANY ILL FEELING SHOULD EXIST BETWEEN YOU AND M. SCRAGGS AT SUCH A TIME AS THIS --- BUT HE'S IRRITABLE FATHER, AND YOU WILL OVERLOOK IT.

RENWICK.

YES, HE HAS DONE A GREAT DEAL FOR YOU, AND IT'S NOT IN ME TO BE UNGRATEFUL.

: TURNKEY ENTERS WITH REYNOLDS, REYNOLDS IS WEAK AND EMACIATED; IN FACT, NO ONE RECOGNIZES HIM. :

REYNOLDS.

: WEAK VOICE : YOU WILL PARDON ME, SIR, FOR MY PRESUMPTION; BUT BEFORE ITS TOO LATE I HAVE SOMETHING TO COMMUNICATE WHICH MAY LEAD TO THE APPREHENSION OF THE PERPETRATOR OF THE CRIME FOR WHICH YOU STAND CONVICTED.

RAYMOND.

HOW MAN --- DO MY EARS DECEIVE ME -- SPEAK!

NELLIE.

YES! GO ON -- SPEAK. SAVE MY RAYMOND! SAVE HIM!

REYNOLDS.

BE PATIENT. I AM WEAK, HAVING JUST RECOVERED FROM A LONG FEVER. I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM CHINA, WHERE I KNEW YOUR FATHER, AND THAT MAN THERE. : POINTING TO RENWICK :

NELLIE.

YOU KNEW MY PAPA ---- AND THEY KILLED HIM, MY POOR DEAD FATHER.

RENWICK.

: BECOMING ALARMED : THIS IS AN IMPOSTOR, I NEVER SAW THE MAN BEFORE. IT'S SOME ARTIFICE FOR EXTORTION.

REYNOLDS.

HE'S NOT AN IMPOSTOR, SIR, WAIT AND SEE.

SCRAGGS.

GO ON MY MAN, GO ON.

REYNOLDS.

YOUR FATHER WAS NOT KILLED MY POOR GIRL, ALTHOUGH HE SUFFERED WORSE THAN THE PANGS OF DEATH.

NELLIE.

NOT DEAD! HOW! HOW!

RENWICK.

IT IS A LIE.

SCRAGGS.

PROCEED! GO ON.

REYNOLDS.

THERE STANDS THE VILLAIN WHO COMMITTED THE CRIME IMPUTED TO YOUR FATHER. HE WT WAS THAT STOLE THE ''SHAY-LE''. HE IT WAS THAT WAS CONDEMNED TO BE PUNISHED. HE LOVED LIFE. HE OFFERED TWENTY THOUSAND POUNDS FOR HIS RELEASE. YOUR FATHER OFFERED TO TAKE HIS PLACE. HIS OFFER WAS ACCEPTED. RALPH RENWICK PROMISING IN RETURN TO PAY TO YOU AND YOUR POOR DEAD MOTHER TWENTY THOUSAND POUNDS UPON HIS RETURN TO ENGLAND. HOW WELL HE FULFILLED THIS PROMISE, YOU ALL KNOW.

RENWICK.

: IN RAGE : IT'S FALSE! WHO ARE YOU SIR, THAT DARE TO SAY THIS!

REYNOLDS.

I AM CHARLES REYNOLDS!

RENWICK.

: ASIDE: GOOD HEAVENS! REYNOLDS!

NELLIE.

MY PAPA! : RECOGNIZES HIM : IT IS! IT IS! OH MY DEAR PAPA, PAPA! : DELIRIOUS :

REYNOLDS.

MY CHILD!

THEY EMBRACE --- VERY AFFECTING SCENE.
RENWICK DUMBFOUNDED AND UNDONE :

SCRAGGS.

: AFTER PAUSE : BASE VILLAIN! I NOW SUSPECT THE WORST OF YOU.

RENWICK.

BUT THE PROOF, THE PROOF!

REYNOLDS.

IT IS HERE, RALPH RENWICK. HERE FU CHOW!

: FUCHOW COMES DOWN FROM BEHIND CELL WHERE HE HAS BEEN HIDING. :

LOOK AT THESE GREY HAIRS FOR PROOF, THESE HOLLOW EYES, THIS SHRUNKEN FRAME, AND WORSE THE CHANGED AND HARDENED HEART WITHIN ME; FOR NOW I THIRST FOR REVENGE OF THE WORST KIND.

NELLIE.

OH FATHER, FATHER!

REYNOLDS.

BUT FOR THIS POOR SUFFERING GIRL HERE, I WOULD KILL YOU LIKE A DOG.

RAYMOND.

: DEJECTED : AND THIS MAN IS MY FATHER.

SERVANT.

: RUSHING IN : NO!

RENWICK.

MY GOD! YOU HERE!

SERVANT.

YES! I COME TO SEE THAT JUSTICE IS DONE YOU, YOU VILLAIN! : TO SCRAGGS HANDING HIM WILL : HERE, SIR, READ THAT WHILE I POINT OUT THE ASSASSIN OF THE POOR WOMAN FOR WHICH THIS YOUNG MAN IS CONDEMNED. THERE BEFORE YOU STANDS THE TRAITOR. WITH MY OWN EYES I SAW HIM PLUNGE THE FATAL KNIFE INTO HER. I AM NO LONGER YOUR TOOL RALPH RENWICK, I AM YOUR ACCUSER!

SCRAGGS.

AND SEE! HERE THE ORIGINAL WILL OF YOUR DEAD MOTHER, MY BOY. READ! THE DOG THAT STANDS THERE IS NOT YOUR FATHER. THE MONEY THAT HE HAS SO LONG POSSESSED IS YOURS-- HE'S A MURDERER, A PAUPER.

RENWICK.

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